

# REPORT

## NATIVE PAPERS

OF

FOR THE

Week ending the 6th October 1888.

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No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	
BENGALI.					
Monthly.					
1	"Kasipore Nibási" ... ..	Kasipore, Burrisal ...	.....	1st October 1888.	
Fortnightly.					
2	"Ahammadí" ... ..	Tangail, Mymensingh.	.....		
3	"Ave Maria" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....		
4	"Chandra Vilásh" ... ..	Berhampore ...	.....		
5	"Divákar" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....		
6	"Gaura Duta" ... ..	Maldah ...	.....		
7	"Grambási" ... ..	Uluberia ...	.....		
8	"Púrva Bangabási" ... ..	Noakhally ...	.....		
9	"Purva Darpan" ... ..	Chittagong ...	700		
10	"Uttara Banga Hitaishi" ... ..	Mahiganj, Rungpore...	.....		
Weekly.					
11	"Apurva Punchayat" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	21st September 1888.	
12	"Arya Darpan" ... ..	Ditto ...	102		
13	"Bangabási" ... ..	Ditto ...	20,000	29th ditto.	
14	"Burdwán Sanjivani" ... ..	Burdwan ...	302	25th ditto.	
15	"Cháruvartá" ... ..	Sherepore, Mymensingh	500	24th ditto.	
16	"Chattal Gazette" ... ..	Chittagong ...	.....	25th ditto.	
17	"Dacca Prakásh" ... ..	Dacca ...	450	30th ditto.	
18	"Dhumaketu" ... ..	Chandernagore ...	.....	28th ditto.	
19	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly ...	825		
20	"Garib" ... ..	Dacca ...	.....	19th & 26th September 1888.	
21	"Hindu Ranjiká" ... ..	Beauleah, Rajshahye...	200		
22	"Jagatbási" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	26th September 1888.	
23	"Murshidábád Patriká" ... ..	Berhampore ...	508	28th ditto.	
24	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....	1st October 1888.	
25	"Navavibhákar Sádharani" ... ..	Calcutta ...	1,000		
26	"Prajá Bandhu" ... ..	Chandernagore ...	995	28th September 1888.	
27	"Pratikár" ... ..	Berhampore ...	600	28th ditto.	
28	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ... ..	Kakiniá, Rungpore ...	205	27th ditto.	
29	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta ...	500	26th ditto.	
30	"Samaya" ... ..	Ditto ...	2,350	28th ditto.	
31	"Sanjivani" ... ..	Ditto ...	4,000	29th ditto.	
32	"Sansodhini" ... ..	Chittagong ...	800	21st ditto.	
33	"Santi" ... ..	Calcutta ...	.....	1st October 1888.	
34	"Saráswat Patra" ... ..	Dacca ...	400		
35	"Som Prakásh" ... ..	Calcutta ...	1,000		
36	"Srimanta Saudagár" ... ..	Ditto ...	.....		
37	"Sulabha Samáchar and Kusadaha" ... ..	Ditto ...	3,000		
38	"Surabhi and Patáká" ... ..	Ditto ...	100		
Daily.					
39	"Dainik and Samachár Chandriká" ... ..	Calcutta ...	7,000	30th Sept. & 1st, 3rd & 4th Oct. 1888.	
40	"Samvád Prabhákar" ... ..	Ditto ...	200	27th, 28th & 29th Sept., & from 1st to 4th Oct. 1888.	
41	"Samvád Punachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto ...	300	28th & 29th September, & from 1st to 6th Oct. 1888.	



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<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
43	"Dacca Gazette" ... ..	Dacca	.....	
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
44	"Darjeeling Mission ke Māsik Sámachār Patriká."	Darjeeling	.....	
45	"Kshatriya Pratikā" ... ..	Patna	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
46	"Aryāvarta" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	22nd September 1888.
47	"Behar Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore	.....	
48	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	1,500	27th ditto.
49	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..	Ditto	500	24th ditto.
50	"Uchit Baktā" ... ..	Ditto	4,500	
51	"Hindi Samāchār" ... ..	Bhagulpore	1,000	
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
52	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Calcutta	250	21st ditto.
<b>URDU.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
53	"Aftal Alum Arrah" ... ..	Arrah	.....	
54	"Anis" ... ..	Patna	.....	
55	"Gauhur" ... ..	Calcutta	196	
56	"Sharaf-ul-Akbar" ... ..	Behar	150	
57	"Al Punch" ... ..	Bankipore	.....	
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
58	"Akhbar-i-darusaltanat" ... ..	Calcutta	340	
<i>Daily.</i>				
59	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta	212	25th to 29th September 1888.
<b>URIYA.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
60	"Taraka and Subhavartā" ... ..	Cuttack	.....	
61	"Pradīp" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
62	"Samyabadi" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
63	"Utkal Dīpikā" ... ..	Cuttack	200	
64	"Balasore Samvad Vāhika" ... ..	Balasore	205	
65	"Uriya and Navasamvād" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
<b>PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.</b>				
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
66	"Silchar" ... ..	Silchar	.....	22nd September 1888.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
67	"Paridarshak" ... ..	Silchar	450	24th ditto.







## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

**THE *Sahachar***, of the 26th September, must disapprove of Lord Dufferin's Tibetan policy. His Excellency has not done well in sending troops to Sikkim without the permission of China, which exercises suzerain authority over Tibet. Lord Dufferin has probably given offence to the Emperor of China.

**SAHACHAR,**  
Sept. 26th, 1888.

**2. The *Surabhi and Pataka***, of the 27th September, is glad at the prospect of the postponement of the Cabul Mission.

**SURABHI & PATAKA,**  
Sept. 27th, 1888.

**3. The same paper** is of opinion that the insurrections in Afghanistan may prove dangerous to India. The authorities should take precautionary measures to avert danger from this source. It is their duty, at a critical time like this, to give up all mean desire of revenge, and to place the Empire on the strongest possible foundation. But, instead of doing this, they are blindly courting danger in a manner which leads one to suppose that they are bent upon ruining the Empire.

**SURABHI & PATAKA.**

Lord Dufferin's foreign policy and Tibet. It was in an evil hour that Mr. Macaulay was appointed to lead the Tibet Mission. It is owing to the shortsightedness of Mr. Macaulay, and his assistant Mr. Paul, that the Sikkim frontier is now being deluged with human blood. It is owing to their alluring descriptions that the Anglo-Indians have become so anxious to establish trade relations with Tibet. Again, as in the case of Burma, so in that of Tibet, the authorities who counted upon an easy conquest see that their calculations were erroneous, and that the war must not be so very petty after all. The writer's surmise that in a war between the English Government and Tibet, the Chinese Emperor would support the latter, is now found to have been correctly made. The arrival of the Chinese ambassador at Lhasa has not been followed by overtures of peace. On the contrary, the Tibetans are making preparations for war with greater enthusiasm. Again, it is said that there are some Russian officers in the Tibetan army. Russia has been waiting for such a disturbance in Central Asia for a long time, and there can be no doubt that she will eagerly avail herself of the present opportunity to injure the Indian Empire with the help of the Tibetans. If Tibet is supported by China and Russia, it will be very difficult to conquer it. It should be noted in this connection, that not only the vernacular newspapers, but so high an authority as Sir George Campbell, holds the English Government responsible for the Tibet war. But be the English Government responsible for the war or not, it is clear that that Government has chosen the most unfavourable time for accomplishing its desire for establishing English trade in Tibet. Is it politic to go into a useless war with Tibet at a time when the exchequer is empty, the people are overburdened with taxes, and serious danger may at any moment have to be encountered on the North-Western frontier? Lord Dufferin will not, it is true, have to answer to any human being for these acts of his, which may produce great mischief in future. But will he escape justice in the tribunal of the Supreme Judge of the universe? India now wants an independent, experienced and liberalminded Viceroy. It is hoped that Lord Landsdowne will be such a Viceroy, and will abandon the mischievous foreign policy of Lord Dufferin, and adopt the peaceful policy of Lord Ripon.

**4. The *Praja Bandhu***, of the 28th September, referring to the proposed Cabul Mission, makes the following observations:—

**PRAJA BANDHU,**  
Sept. 28th, 1888.

The Cabul Mission. The Cabul Mission has been stopped for the present. But there is no reason to believe that it has been stopped in consequence of the strong



expression of public opinion against it. The postponement of the mission may be, for all that is known to the contrary, one of those strokes of Lord Dufferin's crooked policy which are so difficult to understand.

The news from Cabul regarding the state of affairs there is of a most conflicting nature.

The first advices from Afghanistan represented the Amir as sick, and Ishak Khan as ready to march upon Cabul. It was next stated that the Amir was dead. But all this has been contradicted by the subsequent information that the Amir has not died, and that his forces have everywhere inflicted defeats upon those of Ishak Khan. Now, the question is, if the Amir is really victorious as he is represented to be, why has the mission been suspended seeing that his need for English advice must be greater than ever? If, on the other hand, the news of the Amir's death be true, then the outlook in Afghanistan must be admitted to be of the gloomiest nature possible. The Russians, who have been all along watching for an opportunity to enter into Afghanistan, will now find that opportunity; and Russian entry into Afghanistan will probably make English interference in the affairs of that country inevitable. But, in that case, a regular army, and not a mere political mission, will have to be sent to Afghanistan. And who knows that the mission has not been withdrawn precisely for this very reason? But this much is certain that if England enters into a war with Russia in Afghanistan, she will have to incur a heavy loss, and that loss must be attributed to her present policy.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Sept. 30th, 1888.

5. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 30th September, says that it is the Government of India which is principally to blame for the present condition of things

The Tibet war.

on the Sikkim border. That Government knew well that the Tibetans were anxious to exclude all Europeans from their country, and still it persisted in sending a mission to their country. And the present war is the result of that mission. This view is also taken by Sir George Campbell in his letter in the *Times*.

This war with Tibet occurring as it does at a time when Government has complications on every side, and when the internal condition of the Empire is deplorable, is calculated to cause great public alarm.

Lord Dufferin has been praised for diplomatic skill wherever he has gone. Unfortunately for India, however, his diplomatic skill has achieved nothing good here. So now that His Excellency is leaving India, he is exhorted, in consideration of the present deplorable condition of the country, to give up his idea of sending a mission to Cabul and an army to Tibet.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Sept. 30th, 1888.

6. The *Dainik and Samachar Chandrika*, of the 30th September, says that it was almost certain that Tibetans

The Tibet war.

would be defeated in their first encounter with the English. But they will probably take a lesson from this defeat and fight better in future. Now that the English have defeated the Tibetans, what will they do? Surely they cannot take an army to Lhasa over mountainous heights covered with snow, for Napoleon Bonaparte has proved to the world that it must be disastrous to carry an army over long snowy tracts. The English ought not to go to Lhasa.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

### (a)—Police.

GARIB,  
Sept. 19th, 1888.

7. The *Garib*, of the 19th September, says that elephants from the khedda have been all along supplied free of charge to official and non-official gentlemen in Dacca desiring to use them on the occasion of the *Janmastami* festival. But grave irregularities were committed

Elephants in the *Janmastami* festival in Dacca.



this year in this connection by Mr. Clarke, the District Superintendent of Police and Superintendent of the Khedda. He allowed the use of elephants free of charge only to his friends and dependants, and to the favourites of his patron, Mr. Larminie. Baboo Iswar Chandra Das, the Chairman of the Dacca Municipality, who has fallen in the ill-graces of Mr. Larminie, could not get an elephant free of charge; but many of Iswar Baboo's subordinates were allowed to use elephants free of charge. Unable to drive Iswar Baboo from his Chairmanship, Mr. Larminie is thus teasing him in many petty matters.

According to the Dacca Municipal Regulations, no elephant can come within the municipal limits without a license. But Messrs. Larminie and Clarke rode through the town upon elephants without taking licenses. The Chairman can sue them for this violation of the municipal law. It is surprising to find that in consequence of his difference with the Municipal Chairman, Mr. Larminie has trampled the Queen's law under foot.

8. The same paper complains of the prevalence of thefts at Sandwip in Noakhally. Thefts are committed there every night, and the police cannot detect the thieves.

GARIB  
Sept. 19th, 1888

9. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 25th September, says that Colonel Hume, District Superintendent of Police, Burdwan, does not allow the policemen under him to use umbrellas even under the hottest suns and during the heaviest showers. Such an order is not, however, warranted by the Police Manual, which forbids policemen to use umbrellas only when "proceeding on escort."

BURDWAN SANJIVANI  
Sept. 25th, 1888.

10. The *Garib*, of the 26th September, says that the boatmen of Dacca used to moor their boats alongside the Buckland Bundar on the Buriganga river, but the police do not allow them to do so now on the plea that public health in Dacca suffers on account of the boats remaining close to the town. But the real cause of this interference with an old custom is that the Europeans in that part of the town do not like such proximity to boat and boatmen. A young European Professor of the Dacca College has joined the police in committing oppression upon the boatmen. One day he struck a gentleman with a cane and another day he pelted the boatmen with stones. The Dacca public is very much annoyed with him.

GARIB,  
Sept. 26th, 1888

11. The *Sulabh Samachar* and *Kusadaha*, of the 28th September, asks the Calcutta police to enquire into the following points in connection with the death of Pandit Jivananda's daughter-in-law:—

SULABH SAMACHAR  
KUSADAH,  
Sept. 28th, 1888.

The suspected murder of Pandit Jivananda's daughter-in-law.

- (1) Why did not the inmates of the house take any notice of the girl for an unusually long time?
- (2) Why did Suddhabodha, the husband of the girl, go to Kalighat so early in the morning?
- (3) Whether or not Suddhabodha once threatened to beat his father?
- (4) Whether or not Ashubodha, the elder brother of Suddhabodha was in constant dread of the latter?
- (5) Whether or not Pandit Jivananda was unable to send his daughter-in-law to her father's house in consideration of the bad character of his son Suddhabodha?

The police should try its best to ascertain the secret of the occurrence. There was a rumour in Calcutta on the day of the occurrence materially differing from the version of the story given by the family of Pandit Jivananda.



PRATIKAR,  
Sept. 28th, 1888.

12. The *Pratikal*, of the 28th September, says that, it was under the influence of liquor that Mr. Allen, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Berhampore, attempted to outrage the modesty of the lady into whose house he lately trespassed. Three or four days, hard drinking had made Mr. Allen almost mad. The Magistrate of Moorshedabad has done justice in the case by transferring Mr. Allen from Berhampore.

Mr. Allen, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Berhampore.

PRATIKAR.

13. The same paper cannot like its contemporaries blame the Sub-Inspector of the Sujagunge thana for having subjected a woman of ill-fame, who was alleged to have brought on miscarriage, to a medical examination, and gives the following facts of the case collected by him after a careful enquiry :—

The medical examination of a woman in the Sujagunge thana, in Moorshedabad.

Srirup and Hari, two women of ill-fame, reported to the Sub-Inspector that Nitya, a prostitute, had brought on miscarriage. The Sub-Inspector instituted an enquiry and found Nitya confined to her bed by illness. The Sub-Inspector caused Nitya to be examined by a midwife in order to ascertain whether she had really committed miscarriage. The midwife reported that she had not done so, and thereupon the Sub-Inspector took no further action in the matter. The Sub-Inspector cannot, under these circumstances, be said to have done anything wrong. The two informants, who, actuated by malice, informed falsely against Nitya, ought to have been punished. But they have been tried and acquitted.

BANGABASI,  
Sept. 29th, 1888.

14. A correspondent of the *Bangabasi*, of the 29th September, says that there is a school at Sailakupa in Jessore.

The ferry near Sailakupa-Fazipore in Jessore.

The boys coming to the school from the neighbouring villages have to cross a river. But ferry-boats are not always available, and the boys and the villagers in general are, therefore, subjected to great inconvenience. The local police officers are requested to remove this grievance.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Sept. 30th, 1888.

15. The *Dainik and Samachar Chandrika*, of the 30th September, referring to the recent murder of two Cabulies in the district of Dinagepore, makes the following remarks :—

Cabulies in the Mofussil.

As the Cabulies are the first to quarrel with the villagers and as these quarrels often end fatally, they should not in future be allowed to go to the mofussil to sell their wares to the people there.

GRAMBASI,  
Oct. 1st, 1888.

16. The *Grambasi*, of the 1st October, has heard many complaints against Srinibas Sadkhan, the head of the police outpost at Syampore, Mandalghat.

Srinibas Sadkhan, head of the Syampore outpost in the Uluberia Sub-division.

He is said to oppress the local people and is charged with having taken bribes from Baboo Raj Narayana Chakravarti, Lakshmi Narayana Malakar and others of Sosati. It is hoped that the authorities will inquire into these charges.

#### (b)—Working of the Courts.

GARIB,  
Sept. 19th, 1888.

17. Referring to the decision passed on appeal by the District Judge of Dacca, reversing the judgment of the local Munsif in the Dacca Municipal case in which

The Dacca Municipal case.

the Municipality was sued for spending the rate-payers' money on Sir Rivers Thompson's reception at that place, the *Garib* of the 19th September says that it is strange that the Judge while holding that the Municipality acted illegally in spending the rate-payers' money on the reception in question gives a decree with costs in its favour on the ground that in acting as it did on that occasion, the Municipality was actuated by good motives. It is really strange that the Judge has attached more importance



to the motive than to the question of the illegality of the expenditure and has made the respondents, who exposed the illegal action of the Commissioners liable for the costs of the appeal. It now remains to be seen what view the High Court takes of the matter.

The Mirkeserai Munsiff in Chittagong.

18. The *Sansodhini*, of the 21st September, has the following:—

SANBODHINI,  
Sept. 21st, 1888.

“An important question.”

“The question as to ‘where the Munsif Court of Mirkeserai ought to be permanently located’ was long under consideration, but no conclusion has yet been arrived at by the authorities having concern with it.

It formed for sometime a subject of dispute between the people of Mirkeserai on the one side and those of Sitakunda and Comeria on the other side; the former trying to keep the court permanently at Mirkeserai and the other at Sitakunda.

The people of Mirkeserai, for the purpose, made several petitions to the local and the higher authorities and counterpetitions were also made by the other party, without any final result.

As this is a question of much importance and as it greatly affects the interest of the people of the jurisdiction of the above court, it must not, we hope, fail to attract an early notice of the authorities. It ought to be settled once for all, one way or the other.

We beg to make a few suggestions regarding the subject, which we earnestly hope, will not be thrown away.

In discussing the question fully, we are first to see whether one Munsif can be sufficient to dispose of the cases of the jurisdiction without causing any inconvenience to the suitors,—a point, the solution of which can be obviated by a short account of the jurisdiction.

The jurisdiction of the Munsif-Court of Sitakunda extends over a distance of nearly 46 miles from Silimpur in the south to Kata Moborock Ghona in the north. The latter place is cut off from the main land of Chittagong by a curve of the river Big Feni for which it is so called. The people of this place, to litigate their rights in the above Court, have to cross the river Feni which becomes boisterous in the raining season specially.

The population, as will appear from the Bengal Census Report, is estimated at 1,35,410, and the number of suits instituted annually in the above Court is roughly estimated at 2,000, besides the execution cases, the number, of which will exceed 1,000, in addition to miscellaneous works, and the everyday business of the court.

It will appear from the records of some cases instituted in the above Munsifi that even simple money suits are postponed not less than ten times for the want of the court's time to dispose them of.

Now if a man, to prosecute a suit for Rs. 16 or Rs. 20, has to produce his witnesses so many times at a court, his expense will rather exceed the amount which he so strongly fights for; besides, he experiences great trouble and inconvenience in dragging his witnesses to the court so often, as they must naturally be reluctant to dance their attendance for no good of their own. At the same time, he is not entitled by law to recover even one-fourth his actual expenses from the other party even if he gains his case, if gaining it may be called. Thus, in some instances, his gain may be calculated to be the amount of the suit, minus the expenses equal to nothing, plus his troubles.

This state of things we must ascribe to the heaviness of the file and not to the inability or indolence of the Munsif, who, sitting as an administrator of justice, must take time to ascertain the truth and to give a man his just right.

Formerly there were two Munsif courts, one at Vatiary in the southern part and the other at Mirkeserai in the northern part of the



jurisdiction; thus the people could conveniently litigate their rights in the courts which were within their easy reach, and the courts could also hear them patiently. But why and when one of the courts was abolished is not within our knowledge.

From the above facts, and from the necessity of deputing an additional Munsif at Sitakunda from time to time, to clear off the arrear that accumulates in the file of the above court, it will be quite evident that one Munsif cannot at any rate be equal to the work of such a large jurisdiction.

Under the above circumstances we earnestly hope that our benign Government will kindly condescend to give due consideration to the facts stated, and be inclined to entertain a permanent establishment of an additional Munsif for the above jurisdiction.

Now let us see whether both the courts ought to be placed in one and the same place. It has ever been the merciful policy of Government to secure to the people an easy access to courts of justice to enable them to fight out their rights with all possible facilities and convenience; but such a policy is sure to be defeated in case both the courts are located in one place for more than several reasons. *Firstly*, they cannot be placed at Sitakunda, because the place being renowned for its great sanctity attracts numerous pilgrims from various places, and with them the cholera that rages furiously during the *mêla* time. Moreover, the ponds and big tanks that are not less than seven or eight in number, and which surround the place, remaining uncleared and unimproved, have made the place worse in point of sanitation; good drinking water is also not sufficiently available; the place being occupied by tanks, bazar, nut tree gardens and Adhikari houses does not afford sufficient accommodation for two courts with their staffs and pleaders.

Then it is situate at a distance of nearly 22 miles from the southern and 24 miles from the northern limit of the jurisdiction; so the people experience great inconvenience and trouble to attend the court punctually; thus Sitakunda cannot be selected as the permanent site of the courts.

*Secondly*, they cannot be removed to any place south of Sitakunda, as that would increase the trouble of the people of the northernmost places of the jurisdiction; nor can they be removed to any place to the north of Sitakunda for similar inconvenience of the inhabitants of the southernmost places. Thus, it is evident from the above facts that both the courts cannot be located in one place. Then the point is where should they be placed? As to this point, we beg to suggest that it would be better to divide the entire jurisdiction into two parts with "Madar's Hât" as the centre of the southern, and Mirkeserai as that of the northern part of the jurisdiction, and to place a court in each centre, including Sitakunda within the jurisdiction of the Mirkeserai court.

The above suggestion, if carried into effect, is sure to do immense good to the people of Nezampore for the reasons stated above.

We humbly beg to draw the attention of our able and well reputed Judge Mr. Harding to this question, who, we earnestly hope, will take lively interest in it, and move the Hon'ble High Court, and we are sure that by giving effect to the above proposal he will grant an everlasting boon to the people of the above pergunnah for which he will remain ever green in their memory."

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 25th, 1888.

19. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 25th September, complains that the Commissioner of Burdwan has lately dismissed almost all the appeals made to him for setting aside revenue sales. It is useless to prefer such appeals so long as Mr. Westmacott is Commissioner of Burdwan.

Appeals against revenue sales in Burdwan.



20. Referring to the judgment passed by the High Court in the Mymensingh assault case, the *Garib*, of the 26th September, says that Satis did not at first assault Kallanos. Kallanos first pushed

The Mymensingh assault case in the High Court.

him aside, and the blow he gave Satis was so severe that Satis had to remain in hospital for three weeks. If such injuries as Satis received are not to be considered tantamount to grievous hurt, nothing need be said on the subject at all. The blows which Satis received did not cause a rupture of his spleen, and so the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court thought that Satis cannot have been grievously hurt.

GARIB,  
Sept. 26th 1888.

21. The *Education Gazette*, of the 28th September, referring to the *Santi* newspaper's article on the subject of empowering munsiffs to record the depositions

Recording depositions in English.

of witnesses in English (see report on native papers for week ending 29th September 1888 paragraph 48), remarks that it is not easy to see what harm can possibly result from the practice of writing down the depositions of witnesses in that language.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
Sept. 28th, 1888.

22. The *Pratkiar*, of the 28th September, is dissatisfied with the judgment passed by the District Judge of

A guard in the Berhampore Lunatic Asylum.

Berhampore, in the case of the guard in the Berhampore Lunatic Asylum, who was accused of killing a lunatic. The guard may not have been guilty of murder, but he was certainly guilty of causing grievous hurt. The lunatic died of the effects of the blows received by him at the hands of the guard, and the guard should not therefore have been let off without punishment.

PRATIKAR,  
Sept. 28th, 1888.

23. The *Sanjivani*, of the 29th September, complains that vernacular newspapers are not always correctly translated or reported to Government by the Bengali Translator, and says that it is therefore neces-

A case in one of the Assam Courts, and the confidential report on native papers.

sary for Government to furnish those editors with copies of the report on native papers, in order that errors therein may be pointed out by them. Certain inaccuracies in the Bengali Translator's translation of two articles in this paper's issues of the 17th March and 7th July 1888 respectively, have led the Chief Commissioner of Assam to charge the editor with falsehoods and misrepresentations for which the Bengali Translator and not he is responsible.

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 29th, 1888.

The editor next gives the following correspondence which has passed between the Personal Assistant to the Chief Commissioner of Assam and himself :—

" Extract paragraph 16 from report on Native papers for the week ending the 24th March 1888.

' THE *Sanjivani* of the 17th March, referring to the case of Behu Koshni, who, along with two others, was tried for theft before the Assistant Commissioner of Mangaldai, and was ordered by him to be whipped, says that in this case the Commissioner has done two illegal things. Behu is a woman, but he has described her in his decision as a man, and he has sentenced a woman to be whipped. There is a precedent showing how an officer guilty of such an act should be dealt with. There has been a similar case in Burma, where two women were sentenced by the Police Inspector, Mr. Murray to be whipped, and the Chief Commissioner of Burma has compelled Mr. Murray to resign his post. The editor is confident that justice will be done in this case by the present Judicial Commissioner of Assam, Mr. Johnson.'



*Extract paragraph 23 from report on native papers for the week ending the 14th July 1888.*

' The *Sanjivani* of the 7th July, says that the Assam Government will soon issue a resolution on the subject of the sentence of whipping passed by Mr. Gait, Assistant Magistrate of Mangaldai in Gauhati, on a woman named Behu Kushni. The *Pioneer* and the *Englishman* newspapers, fearing that the Assam Government will punish Mr. Gait, have taken up his cause and have commenced pleading in his favour. The *Pioneer* says that the Magistrate had at first mistaken the girl for a boy, and that he discovered his mistake only after the sentence had been executed. The *Englishman* is also harping in that strain.

' Now, if *Pioneer's* version be correct, why did Mr. Gait, when called upon to explain why he had ordered a girl to be whipped, ask permission of the Chief Commissioner to prosecute this paper instead of simply acknowledging his error in his explanation? and why, again did not Mr. Gait state in his explanation that he had learnt, after the sentence had been executed, that the person sentenced to be whipped was a girl and not a boy?

' The right view of the matter is that the Magistrate knew from the first the sex of the accused, and that he sentenced the accused to be whipped in ignorance of the law. For, in the police report submitted in the case, Behu was described as a female with the proper prefixes and affixes to her name. If Mr. Gait read the report, he certainly knew that Behu was a woman. If he did not read it he certainly proved himself unfit for the judicial office. Again, Behu appeared before the Magistrate in a female dress, and it must be held to have been passing strange if still the Magistrate knew not what her sex was.

' Again, it is customary in all cases of punishment by whipping to have the convict examined by a doctor. But this was not done in Behu's case, and was not this grave neglect of duty on the part of the Magistrate? The present Chief Commissioner of Assam is a just man, and it is hoped that his decision in this matter will be perfectly satisfactory.'

I am to refer as an instance in point to the case in which a female child received some strokes of a rattan on the hand for theft under a sentence passed by Mr. Gait, Assistant Commissioner of Mangaldai, under the impression that she was not a girl but a boy.

The case was, I am to say a very fair one for adverse criticism, inasmuch as a clear illegality had been committed, and that through an oversight, which a little more care on the part of the Magistrate and of his native amlah, who certainly ought to have discovered the mistake if the Magistrate could not, would have avoided. But you were not content to comment on the case in this way.

Your notice of it in your issue of the 17th March, as given in the report on native papers (copy appended) spoke of the child as a 'woman' and of her being 'whipped,' and compared the case with one in which two women were flogged in Burma, and it did this in such a way as to lead the Chief Commissioner, and doubtless most of your other readers, to suppose that a grown up woman had been whipped in the ordinary manner prescribed by law. In fact, that not merely a serious illegality but an atrocious outrage had been committed. Then when a statement of the case was given in some English papers which as a matter of fact was accurate, and which ought at least to have put you on your guard against your correspondent, you endeavour in your issue of the 7th July (see extract from report appended) to make out that Mr. Gait knew at the time he passed his sentence that the prisoner was a girl, and in order to support this view you put forward a statement which is absolutely false, viz. that Mr. Gait when called upon for an explanation asked the Chief Commissioner's permission to prosecute your paper, and did not state that he had made a mistake as to



sex of the child. The explanation, I am to say given to the Chief Commissioner from the first, was that Mr. Gait mistook the sex of the child, and it is hard to conceive how it would be otherwise, seeing that, as you stated in your first notice of the case, the child had been described in the judgment as a boy. Moreover, Mr. Gait never asked the Chief Commissioner's permission to prosecute your paper. Indeed, so far as the Chief Commissioner is aware, the idea of instituting proceedings in connection with the matter has never crossed the mind of any one concerned.

The Chief Commissioner, I am to say, does not mean to suggest that you yourself knowingly put forward these falsehoods and misrepresentations. You have no doubt been the victim of some disreputable or unscrupulous local correspondent; but Mr. Fitzpatrick would take the liberty of observing that those who are liable to newspaper criticism have at least a right to expect that an editor will take care that he is served by correspondents who will not deliberately misrepresent matters.

I have, &c.,

(Sd.) H. R. BROWNE,

*Personal Assistant to the Chief  
Commissioner of Assam."*

The manager of this paper replied to the above as follows:—

"While the editor is fully prepared to acknowledge that his journal is not free from occasional errors of omission and commission in discussing public subjects, he is unable to admit that in commenting upon the case in which a female child received some strokes of a rattan on the hand for theft under a sentence passed by Mr. Gait, Assistant Commissioner of Mangaldai, he was not actuated by a spirit of fair criticism, but that his motive was to create a sensation, as was falsely alleged by some English papers referred to in your letter. That the accusations of the *Pioneer* and the *Englishman* were as untrue as they were ungenerous, would be evident from the facts which I am directed to state presently. If the Chief Commissioner had been led 'to suppose that a grown up woman had been whipped in the ordinary manner prescribed by law,' the editor of the *Sanjivani* could not be held responsible for it, as he, in his article of the 17th March, nowhere described the child as a 'woman,' the word 'স্ত্রীলোক' which he used is a very comprehensive term, meaning 'a female' whether young or old; and he said nothing which could lead any one to suppose that she was 'whipped in the ordinary manner prescribed by law;' on the contrary he distinctly stated that she was the daughter of Ratibori, and received ten strokes of a rattan on the hand. Moreover, he published in the body of that article the judgment of the Assistant Commissioner, in which it was clearly stated that he ordered Bihu 'to receive ten strokes in the way of school discipline.' It is therefore evident that the editor never attempted to show 'that not merely a serious illegality but an atrocious outrage had been committed.' Again in his issue of the 7th July, he never said that Mr. Gait had asked the Chief Commissioner's permission to prosecute his paper. He distinctly stated there that Mr. Gait had asked the permission of the Judicial Commissioner, Mr. Luttmann Johnson for the purpose. If after making a reference to Mr. Johnson on the subject the Chief Commissioner be satisfied that this was not the case, the editor of the *Sanjivani* on being informed of it, would be glad to correct the mistake, and to make sufficient apology for it.

Now the view taken by the editor that Mr. Gait knew from the first the sex of the accused, and that he sentenced her to be whipped in ignorance of the law has such a strong element of probability in it, that your letter has not attempted to meet all the arguments he had advanced in support



of this position. That Mr. Gait acted in ignorance of the law is sufficiently clear from the fact that he did not send the accused girl to a doctor for examination as is customary in all cases of punishment by whipping. That he knew from the first the sex of the accused, and acted in ignorance of the law appeared to the editor to be a more charitable view of the matter than that Mr. Gait decided the case without reading any of the papers in that connection.

The editor of the *Sanjivani* ventures to hope that it will now clearly appear to the Chief Commissioner that his complaint against the manner in which Assam topics are occasionally treated in the *Sanjivani* is due, so far as the case under reference is concerned, to the publication of incorrect and misleading translations of the articles referred to in the report on native papers, as will appear from the articles themselves, copies of which are herewith sent to you in a separate cover. Previous to the receipt of your letter, the editor had no knowledge of the publication of these incorrect and misleading translations as the report on native papers is no longer supplied to the press. If the editor were supplied with a copy of it, he could have himself corrected the mistakes long before they attracted the notice of the Chief Commissioner. This is another instance of the evil effects of the present policy of the Government in keeping the Vernacular Press ignorant of almost everything concerning its affairs.

In conclusion the editor of the *Sanjivani* regrets very much that the Chief Commissioner should have thought it desirable to pass such a strong remark as 'disreputable or unscrupulous' on his correspondent, without referring the matter to him for an explanation. He regrets this more when he remembers that this remark has proceeded from Mr. Fitzpatrick, whose high administrative ability and earnest desire to do good to the people entrusted to his care, have often received his thankful acknowledgment, and won his esteem. He, however, hopes that the Chief Commissioner will now be convinced that neither the editor of *Sanjivani* nor his correspondent can be blamed for the erroneous and misleading translations of the articles that were published in the report on vernacular papers.

I have &c.,

Manager of the *Sanjivani*."

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 29th, 1888.

24. A correspondent of the same paper contradicts the statements which appeared in a previous issue of this paper regarding Baboo Braja Nath Banerjee, Sheristadar, Sub-divisional Court, Ramporehat.

Baboo Brajanath Banerjee, Sheristadar of the Deputy Magistrate's Court, Ramporehat.

(See weekly report of native papers for the week ending the 29th September 1888, paragraph 20). Braja Baboo has been serving for a period of 10 or 12 years. He has two brothers who live jointly with him, and each of whom earns Rs. 300 or Rs. 400 a month. So Braja Baboo has not to spend much on account of the family expenses. The brothers have also some income from ancestral property. True, there is a number of men staying with Braja Baboo at Ramporehat; but their maintenance does not cost him much, because living at that place is very cheap. Braja Baboo is also a very frugal man, and does not indulge in luxurious habits. Under these circumstances it is no wonder that Braja Baboo has been able to accumulate some money in 10 or 12 years.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Sept. 30th, 1888.

25. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 30th September, writes as follows regarding the Deputy Magistrate of Munhsigunge, Dacca :—

The Deputy Magistrate of Munhsigunge, Dacca.

There was a case on the file of the Deputy Magistrate in which Mahima Chandra Das, a pleader of the local court,



was one party, and Lakshmi Chandra Chakravarti was another. When the case was withdrawn from the file of the Deputy Magistrate at the instance of Lakshmi Chandra Chakravarti, on the ground that he was unable to secure the services of a good local pleader, the Deputy Magistrate wrote a note to the effect that the local pleaders and mukhtears had combined on the understanding that they would not appear against one another, and that if any among them broke the compact he would get no business at all. But this statement of the Deputy Magistrate is not a correct one. For, it is a fact that Baboos Srisha Chandra Chakravarti and Jaya Chandra Banerjee, pleaders in his court, have engaged themselves on the side of Lakshmi Chandra against their brother pleader, Mahima Chandra. Again, cases against the pleaders and mukhtears of the Munshigunge court are often heard of, and no instance is known in which any such case has been decided *ex parte* in consequence of the refusal of any pleader or mukhtear to appear against them.

26. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 30th September, says that, under section 49 of the Road Cess Act, when a joint owner of a mehal sues his co-owners for the recovery of the amount which has been paid by him on their account as road cess, he can make all of them parties in a single suit. But Mr. Larminie, the Commissioner of Dacca, has issued an order to the effect that in all such cases there should be as many contribution suits as there are co-owners to be sued. It is clear that this order will subject all who may have to institute such suits to very great expenditure, and it is therefore hoped that it will be withdrawn by the Commissioner.

27. The *Grambasi*, of the 1st October, says that Mr. Ahmud, the new Sub-divisional Officer of Uluberia, often treats the mukhtears of his court very roughly. He addresses in English the pleaders and the mukhtears of his court who are mostly ignorant of that language, and thus causes serious inconvenience. The other day a man charged with trespass appeared with his mukhtear before Mr. Ahmud, who ordered the man to reappear next day. Thereupon the man was leaving court, and as soon as he was beyond the court compound he was arrested on a warrant which had been out against him for some time. The man, thereupon, asked to be enlarged on bail, and the Deputy Magistrate, who was not at first willing to grant bail, at last released him upon very heavy bail. It is hoped that Mr. Ahmud will not behave in this manner in future.

(d)—Education.

28. The *Education Gazette*, of the 28th September, supports the application made to the Calcutta University by the people of the districts of Burdwan and Beerbhoom, praying that Burdwan be made an examination centre.

29. The *Sulabh Samachar and Kusadaha*, of the 28th September, says that the Calcutta University intends to compile a Sanskrit and a Bengali text-book for the Entrance examination. But there is no hope of getting good books under such a system. It seems that the University intends, by adopting this system, to patronise some of its pet people.

30. The *Sanjivani*, of the 29th September, requests the Calcutta University to set right its list of text-books for the Entrance examination in 1890 in the following particulars:—

- (1). Among the poetical pieces is a piece entitled "Cuckoo." There are, however, two pieces of that name in the book,

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Sept. 30th, 1888.

GRAMVASI,  
Oct. 1st, 1888.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
Sept. 28th, 1888.

SULABH SAMACHAR, &  
KUSADAH.  
Sept. 28th, 1888.

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 29th, 1888.



and the one which the University desires to be read should be specified.

- (2). All paragraphs headed "Communications" and all paragraphs headed "Historic sketch" have been directed to be omitted from Mr. Clarke's class book of geography. But there are no paragraphs in that book with such headings.

BANGABASI,  
Sept. 29th, 1888.

31. Referring to the reward offered by the Government of India for the best work on sanitation and domestic economy for the use of school-boys in this country, the *Bangabasi*, of the 29th September, says that it does not wish to say anything about the study of sanitary science, inasmuch as a deal of trash is already taught on that subject. But domestic economy being a new subject, it is necessary to point out to Government that one single book on that subject cannot possibly meet the requirements of the various Indian communities. And serious mischief will be produced if Hindoo students are taught not to observe caste distinctions.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Oct. 1st, 1888.

32. The *Som Prakash*, of the 1st October, approves of the selection by the Calcutta University of Dr. James Martineau's "Study of religion" as a text-book for the honour course of the B.A. Examination, and hopes that books written in an easy style and full of moral precepts, like Dr. Martineau's book, will be selected as text-books for the Entrance and F. A. Examinations.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

GARIB,  
Sept. 19th, 1888.

33. It appears to the *Garib*, of the 19th September, from the Government Resolution on the Annual Administration Report of the Dacca Division for the year 1887-88, that Mr. Larminie, the Commissioner, is satisfied with the working of the District and Local Boards. But it is found that Mr. Larminie has spoken slightly of the smaller municipalities, and has not spoken anything about the larger ones. The Boards are presided over by Magistrates, and it is no wonder that Mr. Larminie should express himself satisfied with their working. And considering that even the Dacca Municipality has been worried by Mr. Larminie, it is not at all surprising that he should take no notice of the smaller municipalities.

SANSODHINI,  
Sept. 21st, 1888.

34. The *Sansodhini*, of the 21st September, is sorry to find that the members of the Chittagong District Board do not regularly attend the meetings of the Board. The Divisional Commissioner made a mistake in not selecting able and energetic men for the Board. If the existing members cannot shake off their lethargy, they should resign their membership, and if they do not so do the Commissioner should appoint new members in their places.

CHARUVARTA,  
Sept. 24th, 1888.

35. The *Charu Varta*, of the 24th September, says that such adulterated ghee as cannot be sold in the Calcutta market for fear of prosecution is brought to Mymensingh for sale. The Municipal authorities are requested to look to the matter.

CHARUVARTA.

36. The same paper has heard serious allegations against the present Chairman of the Kissoregunge Municipality, in Mymensingh. The authorities should enquire.

The Chairman of the Kissoregunge Municipality.



37. The *Garib*, of the 26th September, says that great inconvenience is felt on account of the submerging of the burning-grounds at Syampore near Dacca.

GARIB,  
Sept. 26th, 1888.

The Dacca burning-ghât.

The Municipal authorities are requested to look to the matter.

38. The *Samaya*, of the 28th September, is glad that the Lieutenant-Governor has paid no heed to the remarks of Dr. Lidderdale in regard to the Serampore

SAMAYA,  
Sept. 28th, 1888.

Local Self-Government in India.

Municipality. Considering the short period for which Local Self-Government has been tried in this country it would be idle to expect that municipal affairs will be everywhere conducted with order and ability.

It must be, therefore, unjust to question the self-governing capacity of the people of this country, if only a municipality here or a municipality there fails to do its work properly. India is a large country and Local Self-Government must be admitted to have proved a decided success if in the majority of the Municipalities established in the country, work has been well and fairly done. As for the occasional failure of any municipality to do its work properly, such failure is to be met with even in England where local self-government has been in operation for a very long time.

The *Graphic*, an English newspaper, in speaking of the Manchester Municipality observes as follows:—"The controversy now going on about the public health of Manchester, shows that even towns, which pride themselves on being enlightened and progressive municipal bodies, may display astonishing indifference to the most elementary principle of sanitary science." Anglo-Indian papers which hate everything native confine their criticisms entirely to those Municipalities where the Bengali element predominates; and so they often blame native Commissioners for leaving that undone which they have not the means to do. On the other hand, really questionable doings of municipalities where the European element predominates elicit no criticism from the writers in the Anglo-India press. Take for instance, the case of the Jamalpore Municipality, whose Commissioners are guilty of having oppressed the rate-payers. The conduct of that Municipality has elicited no unfavourable criticism in the Anglo-Indian press, because most of its Commissioners are Europeans.

BANGABASI,  
Sept. 29th, 1888.

39. A correspondent of the *Bangabasi*, of the 29th September, brings the following charges against Baboo Umesa Chandra Bhattacharjya of Bhatpara, one of the Commissioners of the Naihati municipality :—

A Commissioner of the Naihati Municipality.

- (1). He is trying to widen the road leading to his house, in order that carriages may come in front of it. He never tries to widen other narrow roads in his village.
- (2). He is repairing the road in front of his house; but he does not repair other roads which are urgently in need of repair.
- (3). By deepening a drain he has brought about the demolition of the *pucca* ghât in Ram Gopal Bhattacharjya's tank.
- (4). He does not take any notice of the encroachments which have been made by voters on the municipal streets.
- (5). For the purpose of digging a deep drain, he has removed the demarcation pillars erected by Rameswar Bhattacharjya.
- (6). In order to benefit the municipal overseers, he has caused water to flow in a contrary direction to the natural slope by digging drains three or four feet deep near the walls of people's houses to the great injury of those walls.



- (7). He is repairing the roads in which his voters live, but he does not pay any attention to the improvement of other roads.
- (8). In order to please one of his voters, he is widening a road by taking land belonging to a temple.
- (9). He is making an improper distribution of the municipal grants-in-aid of the Bhatpara *tols*.
- (10). He has constructed a drain in front of the house of Heramba Nath Bhattacharjya by digging through his pucca road, and is repairing other roads by removing the metal from that private road.

These matters have been reported to Baboo Hara Prasad Sastri, the Chairman of the Naihati Municipality, but he has not taken any notice of them. On the contrary, he is supporting the action of the Commissioner.

NAVAVIBHAKAR  
SADHARANI.  
Oct. 1st, 1888.

40. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 1st October, agrees with a writer in the *Som Prakash*, in thinking that the face of this province can be made to wear

an entirely new appearance in ten years, if all district roads are repaired as before by the Public Works Department and the proceeds of the Road Cess are spent exclusively on the construction of village roads. It should be borne in mind that the safety of the people of the villages afflicted with malaria must depend in a great measure on the construction and repair of village roads, a process, which will at the same time ensure satisfactory drainage by keeping water-courses free from impediments and rotten vegetable matter. In order that the Road Cess Department may become popular as the Lieutenant-Governor apparently desires, and in order that the money belonging to the Road Cess Fund may be spent upon local improvements, it is necessary that the management of the district and branch roads should be placed in the hands of the Public Works Department. It appears from Lord Dufferin's sanitation resolution that he is not indifferent to the question of the improvement of public health in the mofussil. But public health in the mofussil can, it is certain, be better improved by the adoption of the proposals made here, than by the proposed survey of the whole province which will result in sheer waste of money. The members of the District and Local Boards should try their best to reduce establishment expenditure, and attend to the construction and repair of village roads, instead of constructing main roads for the convenience of official visitors with a view of pleasing their Magistrate Chairmen. They should also carefully ascertain in what parts of the thana or zillah they represent roads are required. The Road Cess is a more objectionable tax than either the license or the salt-tax. Its collection is also attended with great oppression. It is also paid by a very large number of persons, because there are few villagers who do not hold land. The people are also well aware of the professed object for which this cess is levied. But every village suffers from the want of good roads, and there are many villages the people of which have not received the smallest benefit in return for the cess they have been paying ever since it was imposed. There is therefore great dissatisfaction in the villages on this score, which ought to be removed by the adoption of the policy recommended here.

NAVAVIBHAKAR  
SADHARANI.

41. The same paper says that it is too early to say how the Local Boards in the Burdwan Division will work.

Local Boards in the Burdwan Division.

It is one of the chief duties of those Boards to construct and repair village roads. But not a pice has yet been placed in their hands for this purpose. Perhaps Mr. Westmacott is carrying out in this way his own peculiar views regarding the construction of village roads. Is there no remedy for this? No



Local Board will venture to petition the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject. The District Boards have been written to, but the result is not yet known.

42. The *Som Prakash*, of the 1st October, says that last week a heavy shower of rain having submerged the roads within the Barrackpore Municipality, some boys engaged themselves in catching fish in the roadside drains. A municipal overseer took two of them before the Magistrate who fined each of them Re. 1 for having obstructed the course of the water in the drains. Municipalities have always been known to be very hard upon the poor. It is no wonder that the Barrackpore Municipality has acted in this way.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Oct. 1st 1888.

(f).—*Questions affecting the land.*

Nispikhiraj holdings in the Darrang district, Assam.

43. The *Sanjivani*, of the 29th September, says that the following appeared in its issue of the 7th July 1888:—

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 29th, 1888.

“জেলা দরঙ্গের অন্তঃপাতী মঙ্গলদই সব-ডিবিশনের এলাকায় বহুকাল যাবৎ অনেকে নিষ্পিখেরাজ ভূমি ভোগ করিয়া আসিতেছে। সম্প্রতি গবর্ণমেন্টের কতিপয় রাজ-পুরুষ নিষ্পিখেরাজ ভূমি বাজেয়াপ্ত করিবার চেষ্টায় আছেন। ভূমির অধিষ্টামীর একান্ত দুর্বল, তাহাদের কোন প্রকার মোকদ্দমা করার সাধ্য নাই। সুতরাং রাজ-পুরুষেরা সহজেই সরকারী আয় বৃদ্ধি করিয়া ধনেরর্থ হইতে পারিতেছেন।”

With reference to this the Personal Assistant to the Chief Commissioner of Assam has written to the editor of this paper as follows:—

“The report on native papers for the week ending 14th July gives the version set out in the margin of a letter from a correspondent which has appeared in your issue of the 7th. The allegation made by your correspondent, I am to say, is one which it is impossible for the Chief Commissioner to leave unnoticed. It in effect charges certain officers with taking steps from a base motive to have a large and important class of grants in the Darrang district revoked. Mr. Fitzpatrick, I am to say, cannot conceive to what your correspondent alludes, as there does not, so far as the records of this office show, appear to be any scheme of the sort under consideration or in contemplation, but

he presumes you would not admit into your paper an allegation so calculated to bring discredit in the administration, and to excite apprehension in the minds of ignorant persons without having at least some semblance of ground for it. I am accordingly to ask you if you will be good enough to do so, to let me know the names of the officers who are alleged to be taking action in the matter, and the particular steps they have taken. I am to take this opportunity of mentioning to you that the Chief Commissioner considers that he has grave reason to complain of the manner in which Assam topics are occasionally treated in your paper.”

The following lines in the Bengali extract given above, namely,—

“সুতরাং রাজ-পুরুষেরা সহজেই সরকারী আয় বৃদ্ধি করিয়া ধনেরর্থ হইতে পারিতেছেন।”

have been translated by the Bengali Translator in the following way:—

“And so they intend to purchase the favour of Government by increasing its revenue.”



This is an incorrect translation and the manager of this paper has sent the following reply to the Chief Commissioner :—

"I am directed by the editor of the *Sanjivani* respectfully to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2267, dated the 31st July last, and to express regret for his not having been able to reply to it earlier, as the subject referred to in the opening paragraph of it required him to make a reference to his correspondent, who had furnished him with the information with regard to the revocation by certain Government officers of some nispikheraj holdings in the Mangaldai sub-division of the Darrang district and who, in his turn, had to refer for the verification of the statement he had made, to the records of several cases that were in the possession of others. The editor of the *Sanjivani* has now been furnished by his correspondent with a statement showing that certain nispikheraj holdings have been revoked by Mr. Gait, Assistant Commissioner of Mangaldai, on the alleged ground that the original proprietors of such holdings did not possess the power of transferring their proprietary right to others either by gifts or by sale, or otherwise. That Mr. Gait was evidently wrong in arriving at so general a conclusion has clearly been demonstrated by the fact that his decisions have been set aside on appeal in the cases of Prashidha Narain and Dauka Kaini. Several others among whom may be mentioned the name of Dhrup Shaharia, Basanta Bibi and Krishnalal Dutt have in this way been deprived of their holdings, some of them appealed to the higher court, but obtained no relief there; others had no means of defending their rights in a court of appeal. The editor of the *Sanjivani* has been assured by his correspondent that to transfer one's right in a nispikheraj land to another was not in any way against the prevailing custom of the district, and the revocation of such power by the Government without making it sufficiently known to the people has been a source of considerable hardship to the purchasers of such holdings, and it has no doubt given rise to apprehension in the minds of the people of the district. But from the facts, as now disclosed by his correspondent, it does not appear to the editor that in taking steps for the revocation of the right of transfer with regard to the nispikheraj land the sub-divisional officer of Mangaldai was in any way actuated by a base or interested motive, and he is therefore sincerely sorry that the correspondent ascribed to him a motive which is not warranted by the facts of the cases now cited in support of it. The editor has asked me to assure through you the Chief Commissioner that he will in an early issue of his paper withdraw that part of the remark which was based on a mere assumption.

Now as to the remark of the Chief Commissioner 'that he has grave reason to complain of the manner in which Assam topics are occasionally treated in the *Sanjivani*' I am desired by the editor to state that the difficulties of the editors of vernacular newspapers in collecting authentic records of the courts of law, or correct information with regard to any Government measure, are in themselves so great, and the opportunities and encouragements offered to them in this direction by the Government are so scanty, that it is not at all strange that they should occasionally fall into error. That under these circumstances occasional errors and mistakes deserve to be looked upon with some indulgence, the editor of the *Sanjivani* ventures to think, will be admitted by the Chief Commissioner himself. The editor also wishes me here to draw the attention of the Chief Commissioner to the manifest injustice which the Government of this country does to the vernacular papers in excluding them from the privileges which are enjoyed by newspapers written in English, specially Anglo-Indian newspapers. He is aware of many painful facts proving that while the Government takes no notice of the conduct of many high officials



who communicate to certain privileged newspapers the substance of, and extract from, Government papers and documents of a confidential nature, it allows the very same officials to reprimand and punish native officers of a humble position for communicating the most trivial office information to vernacular newspapers. When the Government treats them with such open discourtesy and distrust and withholds from them information which it could have very well supplied them without any inconvenience and which it does supply to certain privileged newspapers, the errors and mistakes which vernacular newspapers occasionally commit and sometimes reiterate become excusable to a great extent."

The following lines, namely—

ভূমির অধিকারীরা একান্ত দুর্বল, তাহাদের কোন প্রকার শোষণ করা সাধ্য নাই, সুতরাং  
রাষ্ট্র-পুঙ্খবোধ সহজেই সরকারি আয় হ্রাস করিয়া ধরেরখা হইতে পারিতেছেন।

may lead one to suppose that the officials are taking advantage of the weakness of the owners to confiscate their *nispi khiraj* holdings.

The Editor, therefore, hereby publicly declares that the officials have not confiscated the holdings from any such mean motive as that by which they are stated to have been actuated in the passage quoted above. And he withdraws the imputation unconsciously made against the officials in the passage under notice.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

44. A correspondent of the *Charuvarta*, of the 24th September, asks the Sub-divisional Officer of Netrakona and the Netrakona Local Board to reconstruct the roads within two miles to the north and

CHARUVARTA,  
Sept. 24th, 1888.

Want of good roads in the Barhatta thana in Mymensingh.

two miles to the south of the Barhatta thana in Mymensingh. Barhatta is an important place, and a large number of people inhabiting an area of 50 square miles around it come to the local bazar at Asma for marketing. The existing roads are out of repair and remain under water during the rainy season. Mails cannot be regularly delivered and boys cannot regularly attend school on account of the present miserable condition of the roads.

45. A correspondent of the *Garib*, of the 26th September, draws attention to the insulting treatment recently received by the Maharajah of Susang at the hands of the railway station-master at Dacca, and observes that the station-master is unfit to have charge of such a station as Dacca.

GARIB,  
Sept. 26th, 1888.

The station-master of Dacca.

46. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani*, of the 29th September, says that on account of the increase of the goods traffic on the Eastern Bengal State Railway a large number of goods trains are now running both day and night. But the present traffic arrangements on that line are inferior to those under the management of the Company. At 4 A.M. on the 21st September last, two goods trains collided near the Bagula station occasioning heavy loss to Government. So long as double lines are not constructed such accidents will be frequent.

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 29th, 1888.

Goods trains on the Eastern Bengal State Railway line.

47. The *Som Prakash*, of the 1st October, makes the following proposals in connection with railways in this country:—

SOM PRAKASH,  
Oct. 1st, 1888

Indian Railways.

(1)—The proposed abolition of the intermediate class carriages is objectionable. Their retention is absolutely necessary. The fare for these carriages should be reduced. The income of the railways is sure to increase in consequence of such reduction, for more people will then travel in intermediate class carriages.



- (2)—The carriages should be constructed upon a new plan. They should have four large, instead of six small, compartments as at present, and the compartments should be lengthwise instead of breadthwise as now, with privies in the middle. Third class carriages need have no more than one privy each. This change in the construction of carriages, by necessarily reducing the number of doors will result in a great saving of money. The small carriages in the Northern Bengal and Mymensingh Railways should be constructed after the fashion of intermediate carriages, and the effect of this change will be to make those carriages better ventilated than they are now. In third class carriages, screens made of hide or canvas may be substituted for the present glass panels, &c.
- (3)—Third class carriages should have compartments specially intended for Hindus and Mussulmans. The want of some arrangement like this is at present greatly felt, specially by the Hindus who cannot take food in the company of Mussulmans. The proposal is a practicable one, seeing that separate compartments for Europeans alone already exist in those carriages.
- (4)—All classes of carriages should have compartments specially intended for native women. And as the number of female passengers is very small in this country, distinction between Hindu and Mussulman women need not be observed in such compartments.
- (5)—Intermediate class carriages should also have separate compartments for Hindus and Mahomedans, and the first and second class carriages should have separate compartments for natives and Europeans. This will save respectable native gentlemen from such insults as they now receive from European passengers.
- (6)—Native women should have waiting-rooms in all stations.
- (7)—Intermediate class passengers should be allowed to use the waiting-rooms now used by first and second class passengers alone.
- (8)—Waiting-rooms should be provided for third class passengers.
- (9)—Arrangements should be made at all the stations for the supply of good drinking water; and as the licensed sweetmeat-sellers, taking advantage of their monopoly, often sell abominable articles, the right of selling sweetmeats to railway passengers should be thrown open to the public.
- (10)—The right of serving as railway coolies should also be thrown open to the public. The present system of licensing a certain number of men to serve as coolies at the stations often results in much inconvenience to passengers.
- (11)—There should be good hotels or sweetmeat shops for Hindus at those stations where trains make long halts.
- (12)—The authorities should take care that passengers are not roughly treated by station-masters, booking officers and other railway servants.

GRAMBASI,  
Oct., 1st, 1888.

48. The *Grambasi*, of the 1st October, says that as the arrangement for lighting the locks in the Midnapore Canal is imperfect, the steamers belonging to Messrs. Hoare, Miller and Company, which ply in that canal at night, run great



risk in so doing. The Canal authorities should improve the lighting arrangement.

(h)—General.

49. The *Garib*, of the 19th September, says that Mr. Larminie, the Commissioner of the Dacca Division, has committed blunders in connection with the Jamal-pore *méla* case, the Mymensingh water-works case, and the Dacca Municipal case. And the Lieutenant-Governor has lately found him blundering in his figures relating to the export of rice from Burrisal and Naraingunge. How then did Mr. Larminie get his Commissionership?

GARIB,  
Sept. 19th, 1888.

Mr. Larminie, Commissioner of Dacca.

50. The same paper asks the authorities to enquire into the following charges brought by a correspondent against the Superintendent of the Dacca Medical School and the Mitford Hospital:—

GARIB.

The Dacca Medical School and Mitford Hospital.

1. The medical students on duty at the Mitford Hospital are required to remain standing from 6 A.M. to 9 A.M. Two such students having sat within that time have been fined. The students are also mercilessly fined every day on some plea or other. The students are generally poor, and it is very hard for them to pay fines.
2. The patients in the hospital are treated like convicts in the jails. They are made to work, and are sometimes beaten. Lately a patient, named Jahan Bux, unable to bear the pains of disease, grasped the Doctor Sahib's feet by way of appeal. But the doctor was so enraged at this that he kicked the poor man several times which caused him to swoon.
3. Kakru, Behary, Hanuman and Dhanai have been admitted into the hospital as patients. They get food and medicine in the hospital. But they have to pull the Sahib's punkha at night and to mow grass for him. They have got tired of their present condition. Could anything be more cruel and monstrous than this? Even convicts in the jails are better off than these poor patients in the Mitford Hospital.
4. Boats are not allowed to be kept at the hospital ghât, and any one keeping boats there is insulted and ill-treated.

51. The *Sâr Sudhanidhi*, of the 24th September, says that the reason why scarcity assumes a very serious form in this country is that the district officers seem

SAR SUDHANIDHI,  
Sept. 24th, 1888.

Famine in Orissa.

reluctant, from a fear of being thought incompetent, to inform Government of the real state of things, and that Government places implicit faith in the reports of district officers. That the Orissa famine has assumed so dreadful a form that the assistance which is being given by Government is affording no appreciable relief is owing to this cause. The relief given by Government in Orissa is very inadequate. Government has spent only the sum of Rs. 2,202-15 in the 17 days, from the 30th July to the 15th August, during which time it has afforded relief to 1,000 persons every day. Government says that 86,000 persons stand in need of relief, and it is assisting only 1,000 persons every day! How will 86,000 persons be relieved at this rate? Government proposes to relieve the suffering people by giving tuccavi loans of Rs. 90,000 and alms to the extent of Rs. 17,000. This assistance will be inadequate.



CHATTAL GAZETTE,  
Sept. 25th, 1888.

52. The *Chattal Gazette*, of the 25th September, gives the following grounds for its disapproval of the proposal to enlarge the Noakholly district by incorporating in it a part of the Chittagong district:—

- (1). The people of Chittagong will be subjected to serious inconvenience if a part of their district is incorporated with the Noakholly district. The river Feni, which separates Chittagong from Noakholly, is a very dangerous river, and the people of Chittagong will have to cross it in fair and in foul weather if a part of their district is joined to Noakholly. If the Feni river had flowed south of Mireswari, no one would have objected to that part of the district of Chittagong being incorporated with Noakholly.
- (2). If a part of Chittagong is incorporated with Noakholly, it will become absolutely necessary for Government either to construct a bridge over the Feni at an enormous cost, or to keep a ferry steamer upon the Feni which will cost the poor people of Chittagong too much in the shape of fares. Government is therefore requested not to entertain this proposal regarding the enlargement of the Noakholly district.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 25th, 1888.

53. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 25th September, will admit for argument's sake, that the *Pioneer* is right in thinking that the complaint made by the natives

that the Arms Act is causing them material mischief is perfectly groundless, but would like to know where was the necessity of passing the Act. The natives do not care much to keep or carry arms, but they do take it to heart that while Government trusts Eurasians and Armenians with arms it does not allow its loyal Indian subjects to keep arms without licenses. They are enemies of the Government who counsel it to retain in the statute book an Act which is indicative of such distrust of the loyal native population of India.

The necessity of some such law as the Arms Act may be justified by saying that it is very important that Government should know the number of arms which are kept in the country. But it is clear that that purpose may be better served by passing a rule or law requiring all who keep arms to furnish Government with statements showing their number and description. Such a law or rule will not imply such distrust of the natives as the Arms Act does, and will also bring dacoits and other budmashes completely within the power of the police by disclosing to it the resources they possess in the way of arms and weapons.

SAHACHAR,  
Sept. 26th, 1888.

54. The *Sahachar*, of the 26th September, says that there is overcrowding not only in the Indian towns but also in the Indian villages, and the agricultural

resources of the country will soon be insufficient to meet the demands of the rapidly increasing population. Under these circumstances, Government has done well in turning its attention to the subject of encouraging Indians to emigrate to Burma. Emigration is not an entirely new thing in the eyes of the people of this country. Many Indians have already settled for good in Mauritius, Demarara, and Jamaica, and secured a competence in those places which they could have never done in India. It is therefore desirable that whole families of Indians in those Provinces, where the population is too thick, should emigrate to Burma.

But it is necessary, in order to induce the Indians to emigrate to Burma, that Government should make liberal arrangements for the grant of land for purposes of cultivation, and afford them protection against the Burmese, who look on them with no friendly eye, by allowing them to carry



arms like Englishmen. Educated Indians should not lose this opportunity of improving their position in life. Much capital will not be required, and Government will probably help the emigrants.

55. The *Garib*, of the 26th September, has received numerous complaints regarding the management of the Dacca Mitford Hospital. The following is one

The Mitford Hospital, Dacca.

of such complaints. The patient, Jahan Bux, who was beaten for having thrown his arms round the feet of the Doctor Sahib in a paroxysm of pain, (see above, paragraph 50) has been since turned out of the hospital on a charge of smoking. The poor man has no money and is suffering from a painful disease. To turn such a man out of the hospital amounts to killing him. If smoking is contrary to the hospital regulations, the authorities should take steps to prevent patients from smoking. And they must be very wrong if they turn out a patient for so trivial a fault. The attention of the authorities ought to be directed to the condition of the Mitford Hospital.

GARIB,  
Sept. 26th, 1888.

56. The *Praja Bandhu*, of the 28th September, says that the news that Government contemplates transferring Mr. Buckland shortly from the Board of Revenue, will be gratifying to the clerks in

Sir Steuart Bayley and the Board of Revenue.

the Office of the Board, who are oppressed by that officer. This paper was the first to draw the attention of Government to Mr. Buckland's treatment of the clerks in the Board of Revenue, and now that Sir Steuart Bayley's hand of justice is upon him, it is expected that the Eurasian Ord will also be brought to justice.

PRAJA BANDHU,  
Sept. 28th, 1888.

57. The *Samaya*, of the 28th September, referring to the removal of Mr. Kirkwood's name from the Bengal Civil Service List, asks how is it that others

Mr. Kirkwood and the medical examination of women.

guilty of the same offence as Mr. Kirkwood have not been visited with punishment? Why does Mr. Melitus, for instance, who, on the 21st July last caused a girl in Assam named Garnea to be medically examined still remain unpunished, although the attention of Government was drawn in proper time to his illegal act?

SAMAYA,  
Sept. 28th, 1888.

58. The same paper is sorry to find that the members of the Committee which has been appointed to enquire into the Home charges are all India Office

The Home Charges Committee.

men. No benefit is likely to be derived from a Committee so constituted.

SAMAYA,

59. *Sanjivani*, of the 29th September, says that sometime ago the Resident Surgeon of the Eden Hospital ruled that the students of the Medical College should treat European female patients just as

European female patients in the Eden Hospital, Calcutta.

they treat native female patients. This produced a consternation in the minds of the European nurses of the hospital, and they tendered their resignation. They feared that if the College students were allowed to nurse patients, they would by and by lose their berths, and they therefore threatened to resign. A Committee was appointed to settle the matter. The Committee decided that three students of the Medical College would go thrice a week to the hospital to treat European patients, and that the Lady Superintendent, the assistant matron and two students of the nursing class should be present on those occasions. This proposal did not satisfy the European patients, and some of them who came to be admitted have gone away. The writer observes that it is certainly desirable that female patients should be treated by female doctors, but as that is impossible at present there is no reason why the students who treat native female patients should not be allowed to treat European female patients also. The real cause of this disturbance is race feeling and the fear of dismissal on the part of the European nurses.

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 29th, 1888.



SANJIVANI.  
Sept. 29th, 1888

60. The same paper says that since the occupation of Burma two lakhs of cows have been slaughtered for the use of Europeans. Most of the inhabitants of Burma live by agriculture, and many Burmese have been obliged to stop cultivation for want of cattle, and having no other means of livelihood they have taken to *dacoity*. The construction of the Mandalay Railway will be shortly finished, and the twenty thousand Burmese who are employed on that work will be thrown out of employment; and as they will have no other means of subsistence, they will probably take to *dacoity*. Government should therefore select some other meat than beef for the use of its European soldiers.

Cow slaughter in Burma.

SANJIVANI.

61. The *Sanjivani*, of the 29th September, brings the following in connection with the Medical College Hospital to the notice of Dr. Coates, the Principal of the Medical College:—

A large number of patients come to the Medical College Hospital for the treatment of eye diseases. But only the respectable among them are allowed to go upstairs, and poor men are kept standing at the foot of the staircase. The Assistant Surgeon disposes of the old patients, but new patients are so roughly handled by the students that instead of obtaining relief, they find their complaints aggravated. The grimaces of the doctor Baboo, who is ill-humour personified, are often disgusting to the patients. Orderlies and chuprassis, too, behave most impertinently. European and Eurasian patients are treated with consideration and native patients are kept waiting when a white skinned man comes in. The officer who puts on bandages is as imperious as a nawab. The diary writer is a Eurasian who addresses patients most discourteously. The durwan, too, insults the patients. The patients are also roughly treated at the dispensary, where they go for their medicines.

URDU GUIDE,  
Sept. 29th, 1888.

The *St. James Gazette* on native newspapers.

62. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 29th September, refers to the statement of the *St. James Gazette* that the practice obtaining in the vernacular journals of making malicious attacks upon Government officials should be put down by prosecutions in Courts of Justice, and remarks that it is strange that native editors alone are blamed for attacking English officials. The Anglo-Indian Editors who do the same thing are probably supposed to do so under heavenly inspiration.

NAVAVIBHAKAR  
SADHARANI,  
Oct. 1st, 1888.

Fines in stamp cases.

63. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 1st October, says that in the resolution on the administration report for the Presidency Division, the Lieutenant-Governor has expressed his concurrence in the view of the Commissioner of that division that the falling off in the income from fines inflicted in stamp cases during 1887-88 was due to the negligence of the judicial officers. This remark is objectionable, because it is calculated to convey the impression that the infliction of small fines amounts to failure of justice, and thus serves as an indirect prompting to judicial officers to inflict heavy fines.

NAVAVIBHAKAR  
SADHARANI.

Native District Magistrates.

64. The same paper says that a little reflection will convince Englishmen that the appointment of natives to the charge of districts will strengthen the foundations of British rule in this country. Any doubts or misgivings that may have once existed on this point, have been removed after the appointment of Mr. R. C. Dutt as District Magistrate of Mymensingh. On the occasion of his recent visit to Tangail, Mr. Dutt received a regular ovation. Indeed, his reception was of a nature which no other officer except the Viceroy can ordinarily expect to receive. The utmost enthusiasm was displayed on the



occasion, Tangail was decorated and illuminated, and vast crowds assembled to see their native Magistrate. Some came from long distances and stopped at Tangail for days together in order to be able to see Mr Dutt. There were fireworks. Mr. Dutt was also invited to the house of Karimunissa Bibee, where songs were sung in his honour.

65. The same paper, referring to the rumour that Mr. Westland will probably be appointed Chief Commissioner of Upper Burma, remarks that at a time when there are such disturbances in Burma a judicious and cool-headed man should be placed at the head of affairs there. The writer suspects Mr. Westland to be a hot-tempered man.

Mr. Westland as Chief Commissioner of Upper Burma.

NAVAVIBHAKAN  
SADHARANI,  
Oct. 1st, 1888.

66. The *Dainik and Samachar Chandrika*, of the 1st October, says that the Lieutenant-Governor's order exempting the Hindu clerks of the Calcutta Custom House from attendance on those days within the Durgapuja vacation on which their office will remain open, has exceedingly pleased the writer.

The Custom House during the Puja.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Oct. 1st, 1888.

67. The *Grambasi*, of the 1st October, referring to Lord Dufferin's administration of India, observes as follows:—

Lord Dufferin's Administration.

When Lord Ripon made over the administration of India to Lord Dufferin, the country was enjoying profound peace. But now when Lord Dufferin is about to leave India the country is in a deplorable condition, being full of distress and disturbances caused by war, famine, &c. Lord Lansdowne, who is to succeed Lord Dufferin, is said to be a friend of Lord Ripon, and it is hoped that he will prove a peaceful ruler like his illustrious friend.

GRAMBASI,  
Oct. 1st, 1888.

### III.—LEGISLATURE.

68. The *Surabhi and Pataka*, of the 27th September, in pointing out the defects of the Indian Criminal Law, makes the following observations:—

The Indian Criminal Law.

SURABHI & PATAKA,  
Sept. 27th, 1888.

1. To allow previous convictions against a person to be adduced as evidence against his character in a subsequent trial is most unjust. It involves the absurdity of judging a man's present character by his previous isolated acts. To give one illustration. A man at the age of 16 slaps somebody on the face, and is punished with a fine. Now suppose that when this man reaches the age of 80 a suit for defamation is brought against him. Under the existing law the Court trying the suit will be bound to consider the conviction against him 64 years back as evidence against his character! Can anything be more monstrous or ridiculous than this?

The following quotations are made from the judgment of a full bench of the Calcutta High Court delivered on the 20th July 1887, for the purpose of showing the absurdity and unfairness of this law:—

(1)—“In reference to the conduct of the parties on previous occasions, we embody in three sections the existing law of England as to the evidence of character with some modifications. We include under the word ‘character’ both reputation and disposition, and we permit evidence to be given of previous conviction against a prisoner *for the purpose of prejudicing him*. We do not see why he should not be prejudiced by such evidence if it is true.”

(2) “We are asked to reject the most natural meaning of the words as one leading to a result manifestly absurd. ... We think we must treat it as plainly shown that the



*danger* which, as we are disposed to hold, the legislature must be supposed to have intended to avoid, *was in truth the object which the legislature sought to attain*. It is stated in language plain, forcible and concise. The legislature lets in the evidence 'for the purpose of prejudicing' the man upon his trial. The English Legislature passes an Act for the sole purpose of shielding an accused. The legislature *in this country* enacts a provision for the purpose of prejudicing him."

2. Again, the blending under the existing law of the functions of prosecutor and judge in the person of the Magistrate is too bad. It involves the absurdity and injustice of making a man who has already formed definite notions about the guilt of an accused person sit in judgment upon him. As the head of the police in the mofussil, the Magistrate of the district acts upon the information which is furnished to him by that body, and institutes criminal prosecutions against accused persons on the strength of such information. This means that whenever any such prosecution is instituted, it is based upon the Magistrate's moral conviction of the guilt of the accused. And so sending the accused person for trial to the Magistrate must be a sad travesty of justice at the best! Formerly, it was thought that when any person sent for trial by the District Magistrate to the Court of some Magistrate exercising first class powers over him was discharged by that Magistrate, the order of discharge was one with which the District Magistrate had no right to interfere. But now it has been settled by a full bench decision of the Calcutta High Court (see Upendra Nath Ghose *versus* Dukhini Bawa I. L. R. 12 Cal. 473) that the Magistrate of the district has a right of interference. This decision will no doubt serve to make the lot of accused persons in the mofussil worse than what it already is.

3. The provision of the criminal law denying appeals to native accused persons against sentences passed in summary cases is objectionable.

4. In certain cases again, when the accused is punished by a court, no superior court can interfere with the sentence on the grounds of fact. But when the accused is acquitted, the District Magistrate, the Sessions Judge or the High Court can direct the acquitting court to re-try the accused with a view of punishing him. Such, at any rate, is the interpretation of the law made in a recent full bench decision of the Calcutta High Court (see Haridas Sanyal *versus* Saritulla I. L. R. 15 Cal. 608).

To illustrate this by an example :—

Formerly, when the case against an accused person was dismissed by a Court on the ground that the evidence against him was unsatisfactory or unreliable, no superior Court, it was thought, could convict him on the same evidence. But the full bench of the High Court referred to above has decided that in such cases the District Magistrate, the Sessions Judge or the High Court may direct the court which tried the accused to re-try him on the same evidence.

The upshot of all this is that, whereas the convictions against an accused is only in some instances final and unalterable, the acquittals in his favour are *always* liable to be disturbed. Could anything be more preposterous than a criminal law which leads to such results. That the criminal law of India is in so unsatisfactory a condition is owing to the fact of its having been enacted by a set of irresponsible men. And this proves the necessity of reconstituting the Legislative Councils on a representative basis.



## IV.—NATIVE STATES.

69. The *Sahachar*, of the 26th September, says that the Nizam has suffered as grievously by inviting Colonel Marshall to his state as the sailor Sinbad in the Arabian Nights did by taking the old stranger on his shoulders. So now that Colonel Marshall has been sent away the Nizam must thank Lord Dufferin for ridding him of that incubus. The writer says that he must praise the foreign policy of Lord Dufferin. It is true that the native press was at first impatient of His Excellency's dilatoriness and apparent reluctance to remedy the evils existing in Hyderabad and other native states, and many even expressed the apprehension that His Lordship would do nothing in the matter. But it is now clear that His Excellency is himself reading all the papers and silently getting rid of one pest after another. He has compelled Mr. Cordery to resign and is firm against the transfer of Mr. Howell from Hyderabad. Two of the worthy Hyderabad triad, namely, Mr. Cordery and Colonel Marshall, have now been removed, and Hyderabad will breathe freely for some time if the third member of the triad, Major Neville, is removed. His Lordship has also discovered the misdeeds of Sir Lepel Griffin and restored order in Bhopal; and what has been already done in Bhopal and Hyderabad awakens the hope that order will also be restored in Rewa. In conclusion, the writer asks whether no arrangements will be made for affording the native princes as a body sufficient protection against the Residents. Because oppression on the part of the Residents exceeded all limits in Cashmere, Hyderabad, Bhopal and Rewa, it attracted public notice. But such oppression exists more or less in all the native states, and it is to be hoped that before his departure from India, Lord Dufferin will make arrangements for freeing the native princes, who are really the pillars of the Empire, from their thralldom to the Residents.

SAHACHAR,  
Sept. 26th, 1888.

70. The *Sam Prakash*, of the 1st October, says that by removing Colonel Marshall from his post in Hyderabad, Lord Dufferin has really done great good to that state, and hopes that before laying down the Viceroyalty of India, His Excellency will similarly remove Colonel Ward from Bhopal and appoint a suitable officer in his place.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Oct. 1st, 1888.

71. The *Dainik* and *Somachar Chandrika*, of the 1st October, says that if Lord Dufferin is really anxious to do good to the state of Bhopal, he should at once remove Colonel Ward from that state. Colonel Ward is not a whit better than Sir Lepel Griffin.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Oct. 1st, 1888.

## V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

72. Referring to the report at Simla on the condition of the people which is in course of preparation, the *Srimanta Sadagar*, of the 20th September, has no doubt that the report will say that "under the British rule in India, cultivation has extended, trade has prospered, the wealth of the country has increased, and the people have become very happy." But the writer will emphatically cry, no, no, no, in reply to such statements.

SRIMANTA SADAGAR,  
Sept. 20th, 1888.

73. The *Praja Bandhu*, of the 28th September, says that the Bengal public are thanking Sir Steuart Bayley for the measures which His Honour has taken to relieve the distress of the people of Orissa.

PRAJA BANDHU,  
Sept. 28th, 1888.

Sir Steuart Bayley and famine in  
Orissa.



MURSHIDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
Sept. 28th, 1888.

74. The *Murshidabad Patrika*, of the 28th September, says that Sir Steuart Bayley's prompt efforts to relieve the sufferings of the famine-stricken people of Orissa will earn for His Honour the gratitude of the native community.

SAMAYA,  
Sept. 28th, 1888.

75. The *Samaya*, of the 28th September, says that it is the duty of the government of Lord Reay to ascertain the correctness or otherwise of the statement made in a letter written by a Missionary gentleman in Ahmedabad to one of his friends that great distress has been caused at that place amongst the people generally and amongst the agriculturists in particular by deficient rainfall.

SAMAYA.

76. The same paper has learnt from a correspondent of the *Statesman* newspaper that the Sub-divisional Officer of Contai, in the district of Midnapore, has asked for a monthly grant of Rs. 18,000 from Government for the purpose of distributing it amongst the 18,000 cultivators in his sub-division, who are absolutely without any means of subsistence. Now considering that even in the jails the monthly cost of food for every convict amounts to Rs. 3, Rs. 18,000 will prove ridiculously short for the purpose for which it has been asked for. It is hoped that Government will take the matter into its consideration.

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 29th, 1888.

77. The *Sanjivani*, of the 29th September, says that on account of the indifference of Government, the famine which visited Ahmednagar in 1876 caused the death of thirty-thousand persons and of a large number of cattle. At first, cattle died for want of fodder, and afterwards men began to die of starvation. This year a large number of cattle have died for want of fodder, and men will shortly die for want of food. It is a pity that Government has in the meantime contrived to spend all the money belonging to the famine insurance fund.

BANGABASI,  
Sept. 29th, 1888.

78. The *Bangabasi* of the 29th September, says that 700 villages are now on the point of ruin, and about a lakh of people have been rendered houseless and completely destitute. This must be startling news to anybody! But the English Government, which sent an expedition to Khartoum for the rescue of a single Englishman, and whose mind is now greatly exercised by the murder of an English traveller by some robbers in Central Asia, is completely indifferent to this alarming and widespread distress! The breach at Jankuli is the cause of all this devastation and misery.

A week after the publication of a report of the devastation caused by the floods, Baboo Jaga Mohan Bhattacharja, the Excise Collector of Burdwan, made a hasty inspection of a portion of the afflicted tract. He consoled the miserable villagers by telling them that the Sub-Deputy Collector, Baboo Binoda Behari Sarkar, would shortly come to enquire into their distress. Baboo Binoda Behari has performed his work of inspection in a most satisfactory manner. He made a house-to-house enquiry. On his return from his tour of inspection a friend of the writer asked what he had seen, and he replied:—"Tears came out of my eyes when I saw the distress of the people."

At last the Magistrate himself went to inspect the breach at Jankuli. On his return to Burdwan, the Magistrate asked Baboo Ambika Charan Gupta, of Bhangamora, who has submitted a petition to the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject of this distress, to pay him a visit. Baboo Ambika Charan saw the Magistrate, and has given the following account of his interview:—



"This morning I went to see the Magistrate in his bungalow. The Magistrate told me that the statement made in my petition, that men and cattle had perished in the flood, was false. He added—'I myself went to Jamal-pore. The people of that part say that they are very happy.' I replied—'I have not made a single false statement. I myself and five or six other respectable people saw men and cattle being washed away. As for Jamal-pore it is situated on the eastern bank of the Damodar, and being protected by a strong embankment, it is no wonder that the people there should be happy. But did you travel farther? Did you go to the western bank of the Damodar.' The Magistrate replied—'Yes, I went to Tiandul, Haripur, Jamdo and other places. Nowhere did I see necessity for relief. As for the breach at Jankuli it is an old story.'

"I said to myself, yes it is an old story, but it is a story of life and death. The breach at Jankuli and Yama's southern gate (the gate by which the dead enter Yama's court) are not very different things.

"I understood from the Magistrate's attitude and demeanour that there was nothing to hope. What is to be done now?"

Seven hundred villages are now on the point of ruin, and the country is resounding with the wails of thousands of people, and yet the Magistrate of Burdwan says that there is no distress! Could anything occasion more regret than that an officer maintained by the people themselves should treat them in this manner? Let Lord Dufferin and the independent and conscientious Sir Steuart Bayley, judge this conduct of the Magistrate. It is not yet known what the report of the Magistrate will be like. But the above indications of what it will in all probability be have made the writer's blood curdle in his veins. Distress is a thing which cannot be concealed, and if the Magistrate's report be not true, a fresh inquiry should be made by a competent officer. In conclusion the writer addresses Lord Dufferin somewhat as follows:—You are the arbiter of the destinies of 250 millions of people, and nowhere else on earth is to be found so exalted a position as yours. We believe that it is your constant desire to uphold the supremacy of the British Government, to maintain peace within the boundaries of the empire, and to promote the welfare of India's teeming millions. Many a time have you declared that you will do your best to remove the distress of the Indians. It is on account of our faith in your sincerity that we venture to approach you to-day with our tale of sorrow. Because you are wise and farsighted, we look to you for the relief of our distress. Many believe that our cries will not reach your heart, and even if they do so, the evil counsels of the *local authorities* will prevent you from removing our distress. But we know no sovereign but you, and before you, shall we cry whether you listen to our cry or not!

79. From information received by it from all sides, it appears to the

*Dainik and Samachar Chandrika*, of the 30th

September, that though the officers of Govern-

ment are not indifferent in the matter of relieving the distress of the people of Orissa, still the relief measures which have been adopted by them have in most cases fallen far short of the requirements of the situation.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Sept. 30th, 1888.

Famine in Orissa.

## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

80. Referring to Lord Dufferin's rumoured visit to Dacca, the *Garib*, of the 19th September, asks the Anglo-Indian residents of that town to make preparations for His Excellency's reception. The native

Lord Dufferin's rumoured visit to  
Dacca.

inhabitants of Dacca accorded a hearty reception to Sir Steuart on the occasion of his recent visit to that town, and now it is the turn of its Anglo-Indian residents to give a reception to Lord Dufferin.

GARIB,  
Sept. 19th, 1888.



GARIB,  
Sept. 19th, 1888.

81. The same paper, referring to the *Pioneer's* story relating to Dr. Surajbal, says that it cannot help doubting whether such a story could have found a place in any other paper. It is no more true that Dr. Surajbal abused the Queen than that he is a Bengali. It seems that the *Pioneer* will one day cut his own throat, and go about proclaiming that a Bengali came and cut it!

GARIB.

Government officials and the National Congress.

82. The same paper makes the following observations on the subject of official opposition to the National Congress :—

The establishment of the National Congress has produced uneasiness and alarm among the Anglo-Indian officials just as the birth of Jesus Christ caused uneasiness and alarm to King Herod. And just as King Herod engaged assassins to take the life of the infant Jesus, so these wicked officials are anxious to suppress the National Congress in its infancy with the help of some traitorous men. But they will no more succeed in suppressing the Congress movement with such instruments than did King Herod succeed in killing the infant Jesus with the help of assassins. Syed Ahmed, Adul Luteef, Siva Prasad, Ameer Ali, and others are mere tools in the hands of these officials, who are fighting behind the scene. This has now been made clear by the statement in the *Pioneer* newspaper to the effect that the officials are justified in opposing the Congress in view of the hostile attitude taken up by the Congresswallas towards the officials. The writer is glad that the *Pioneer* has thus thrown off the mask. The English Government wishes well to the people of India, but its good wishes are not realised or given effect to on account of the opposition of some of its officials. Considering that any representation regarding the grievances of the people made to Government must contain references to official wrongdoing and prayers for their punishment, it cannot but be that the officials will look upon the Congress movement with disfavour. But these officials have neither the courage nor the ability to oppose the Congress openly or publicly, and that is why they go about imploring the Rajas and Nawabs of their own making to set up a fictitious agitation in the name of the people.

SRIMANTA SADAGAR,  
Sept. 20th, 1888.

83. The *Srimanta Sadagar*, of the 20th September, says that in April, May, June, and July, 1887, liquor worth Rs. 53,95,552, was imported into India,

Drunkenness in this country.

but in the corresponding months of the current year liquor worth only Rs. 48,00,269 has been imported. It should not, however, be inferred from this that drunkenness has decreased. It simply means that more country liquor is now consumed by the people, partly on account of the increased manufacture of country liquor, and partly on account of the increased price of imported liquor.

SRIMANTA SADAGAR.

84. The same paper says that the Viceroy is setting a very bad example to the Native Princes by residing at Simla during the greater part of the year. With the Viceroy ruling all India from Simla, why should not the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, for instance, persuade himself that it must be easy for him to govern Cooch Behar from Simla, or why should not the Gaekwar consider it easy to rule Baroda from Europe?

The political effect of the Simla exodus.

SAHACHAR,  
Sept. 26th, 1888.

85. The *Sahachar*, of the 26th September, has received the following account of four coolies who have returned from Assam from a respectable gentleman, who met them on the platform of the Sealdah railway station :—

Some coolies at the Sealdah station. They were seated on the platform, and as they were unable to move a single step on account of illness, they were easing themselves at short intervals on the platform itself, for which they were abused in



foul language by the policeman on duty. They were crying all the time. One of them was a Bengali woman, but sickness and want had worked such a sorry change in her form that she could hardly be distinguished from one of those women of the wild tribes from which coolies are generally recruited. On being questioned, she stated that she served as a female servant in Calcutta, and that a coolie recruiter dressed like a gentleman enticed her away to Assam by an offer of employment there on a monthly salary of 12 rupees. On her arrival in Assam, she was made to give an agreement for five years. But after she had worked for two years, she was turned out along with some other coolies on account of illness, and not a pice of the salary due to her was given to her. She and her companions received only Rs. 12 as railway fare, and Rs. 2 for buying food. She also stated that about 150 coolies had died on the way in the steamer. They were all without a pice when the gentleman came across them, and he took them to the Campbell Hospital.

86. The same paper thanks the *Statesman*, the *Englishman* and the *Indian Daily News* for their refusal to aid in fanning the flame of race animosity by publishing the indignant letters of Mahomedan correspondents protesting against certain observations made in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* regarding their community. The observations of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* are indeed of a reckless nature, but the Mussulmans should pardon this single offence of that paper in consideration of the eminent services which it has rendered to the country by exposing, at considerable risk to itself, the evil doings of the Political Residents in general in the native states, and especially of Sir Lepal Griffin in Bhopal. They should remember that the steps lately taken by the Viceroy to improve the position of the native princes are in a great measure owing to the writings of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*.

S. HACHAR.

The Mussulmans should indeed take no notice of the observations made in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. Who shall say that low people are more numerous among the Mussulmans than among other Indian communities, or that the Mussulmans are intellectually inferior to the Hindus? Who again does not respect the Syeds? The Mussulmans should never forget that they and the Hindus, though following different religions, are members of one and the same nationality. They should also remember that those Englishmen who for purposes of their own are now instigating the Mussulmans to oppose the National Congress secretly despise those who accept and follow their advice, and they will also do well to seek an explanation of the curious fact that ill-feeling between Hindus and Mussulmans exists within British territory alone, and not at all in the native states.

87. The same paper says that if Mehidi Ali has even a grain of sense he will not only himself profit by the gentle rebuke which has been administered to him by Mr. Gladstone on the subject of the National Congress, but will also point out to his co-religionists the folly of opposing that movement.

S. HACHAR.

88. The *Garib*, of the 26th September, says that the Chairman of the Dacca Municipality has asked the advice of Mr. Larminie, the Divisional Commissioner, about the measures which should be taken against those who rode through the town on elephants on the occasion of the Janmas-tami procession, without taking out licenses. But on a reference to the last year's pass book, it has been found that not a single European gentleman's name is entered in it. It seems that they that make laws are

GARIB,  
Sept. 26th, 1883.



also they that break them, and the people cannot certainly be expected to feel any respect for such laws. This year Mr. Larminie has himself sinned against the municipal rule requiring licenses for the use of elephants, and has rendered himself liable to a fine of Rs. 20. It therefore remains to be seen what advice is given by Mr. Larminie to the Chairman.

The Chairman asked the Magistrate to make out with the help of the police a list of the persons who used elephants without license. The Magistrate did not comply with this request, and asked the Chairman to return the letter which had been sent to him some time previously under the signature of Baboo Chandra Kumar Dutt, the Deputy Magistrate. What is the meaning of this?

GARIB.  
Sept. 26th, 1888.

89. The same paper complains of the ravages of a tiger at Sonaranga, a village near Bikrampore in Dacca. The tiger has already mauled three persons. The villagers have no arms or weapons, and they cannot therefore kill wild animals. The authorities are requested to look to the matter.

PARITIKAR.  
Sept. 28th, 1888.

90. The *Pratikár*, of the 28th September, is sorry to find that the Commissioner of Allahabad and the National Congress. Commissioner of Allahabad has withdrawn his permission, granted some time ago, to hold the meetings of the fourth National Congress at the Khusrubag. Will the Congress suffer in the least or will its promoters be daunted by this? This action of the Commissioner exposes only his own meanness.

PRAJA BUNDHU,  
Sept. 28th, 1888.

91. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 28th September, says that it is a rather curious and astonishing enquiry which the Government of Bombay has made with the view of ascertaining the correctness or otherwise of the statement made in the *Rajbhakta*, a Bombay newspaper, that the Thakur Suryya Singh, whilst taking leave of Colonel Barton at a railway station, made him a present of a bag containing 20,000 rupees. For, instead of asking the Colonel any thing about this money, as it should have done, it only put pressure upon the editor of the *Rajbhakta*. Enquiries end in this way where Europeans are concerned.

SAMAYA,  
Sept. 28th, 1888.

92. The *Samaya*, of the 28th September, referring to what Mr. Gladstone said to Nawab Mohsin-ul-mulk on the subject of the Congress movement, asks, has the Nawab been able to make out the real meaning of Mr. Gladstone's words?

SULABHA SAMACHAR  
& KUSHDAHA,  
Sept. 28th, 1888.

93. The *Sulabh Samáchar* and *Kushdaha*, of the 28th September, thanks Mr. Bradlaugh for his speech at Northampton on the subject of "India's wrongs and English remedies."

SULABH SAMACHAR &  
KUSHDAHA.

94. The same paper, of the 28th September, is sorry to find the officers of Government behaving disgracefully in connection with the Congress movement. Some time ago Mr. Ali Mahammad Rimzi delivered an address at Aligurh explaining the object of the National Congress. It was reported on the day preceding that fixed for the address that some Mahomedans were dissuading people from attending the meeting, and that the Collector Saheb viewed the meeting with disfavour. Mr. Kennedy, the Collector, is so good a man that it is almost impossible to believe such a rumour regarding him.

Maulavi Syud Mahammad Karim, the Deputy Magistrate, who is a friend of Syud Ahmed, accompanied by a number of chaprassis went to the place where the meeting was to be held, and before the meeting commenced, took



down the names of some of the persons who had gone to hear the address. The jemadar of the tehsil court stood at the door of the meeting hall and dissuaded people from attending the meeting. Many did not accordingly go in from fear. What is the meaning of all this?

Again, the Commissioner of Allahabad has withdrawn his order permitting meetings of the Congress to be held at the Khusrubagh. Who will reveal the secret that underlies these strange proceedings?

When Baboo Keshab Chandra Sen delivered his speech on "England's duty to India" in England, some Anglo-Indians said that they would have whipped Keshab Chandra if he had delivered such a speech in India. But the noble and respectable English people in England were highly pleased with Keshab for that speech of his. It seems, however, that a low and mean feeling has been aroused in the minds of the Anglo-Indian officials in regard to the Congress movement.

95. Referring to the favourable opinion which has been expressed by Mr. Gladstone regarding the National Congress, in the course of a conversation with Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk of Hyderabad, the *Sanjivani*, of the 29th September, says that after the rebuff thus received by him, the Nawab was most probably obliged to hide his face in shame and leave Hawarden quite crestfallen.

*SANJIVANI*,  
Sept. 29th, 1888.

Mr. Gladstone on the National Congress.

96. Baboo Basanta Kumar Bhattacharya, of village Jamalpore, within the jurisdiction of the Nalia post-office in Furreedpore, writing to the same paper, says that one Atal Chandra Karmakar of Kanjakuda, a village situated within the jurisdiction of the Chatna thana in Bankura, who was being enticed away by a coolie recruiter, has succeeded in escaping from his custody, and is at present living in the house of Jagatbandhu Bhattacharya. Atal has three cousins whose names are Nadiar Chand Karmakar, Ishan Chandra Karmakar and Paran Chandra Karmakar, who live at village Kanjakuda. Atal came to Calcutta in search of employment and was enticed away by a coolie recruiter. If Atal's relatives receive this information they will take him back to their native village.

*SANJIVANI*.

Coolie recruiting.

97. The same paper says that Messrs Sen, Friends and Company of this city are selling cloth having obscene and highly objectionable songs embroidered on it, and are advertising the article by circulating coloured hand-bills. They are sending these hand-bills by post to school-masters for distribution among boys.

*SANJIVANI*.

Sale of cloth with obscene embroidery on it.

98. A writer in the *Som Prakash*, of the 1st October, says that he has himself seen a steamer belonging to Messrs. Hoare, Miller and Company greatly overcrowded, and attributes such overcrowding to negligent inspection on the part of the officer who grants licenses to such steamers. That officer must be a topi-wallah who probably grants licenses sitting in the office of the Company. Government is asked to appoint a Committee consisting both of natives and Europeans to enquire into the condition of the steamers belonging to the Company. The inconvenience resulting to passengers from the steamers of the Company not stopping on their course sometimes within 13, sometimes within 18, sometimes within 20, and sometimes within 48 hours, and the abominable nature of the sweetmeats sold by the sweetmeat sellers attached to the Company's steamers, are then alluded to.

*SOM PRAKASH*,  
Oct. 1st, 1888.

Messrs. Hoare, Miller and Co's. steamers.



SOM PRKASH,  
Oct. 1st, 1888.

99. A correspondent of the same paper says that the Burdwan Raj Estates have been brought to the brink of ruin under the management of Baboo Banbehari Kapur. How long will the Lieutenant-Governor continue in his present attitude of indifference in the matter? Has the public seen the eight letters entitled the "Mysteries of the Burdwan Raj" that have been published from Chandernagore? Bravo Mr. Beames! You have, for the purpose of driving your accustomed trade, done such a wrong to the people of Burdwan that they are still smarting under it.

SOM PRKASH.

100. The same paper regrets that so high an officer as Sir Auckland Colvin, Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, should be opposing the Congress movement. To oppose that movement lest its success should one day lead to the exposure of a few high English officials of Government is very bad indeed. Such opposition will widen the differences between Hindus and Musulmans. If it be the duty of Government to establish good feeling between the different sections of the people confided to its care, then its officers should abandon this present attitude of hostility to the Congress. For by assuming that attitude they are encouraging the Mahomedans to persist in their hostility to the Hindus. The officers of Government ought to join the Congress, and if they cannot do so, they ought to maintain an attitude of strict neutrality towards it. For they should know for certain that the Congress movement is by no means a disloyal one.

SOM PRKASH.

101. The same paper says that the present rule under which people can make deposits in the savings banks between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. every day has always been felt to be an inconvenient rule by clerks, who cannot leave their offices between those hours for the purpose of making deposits in those banks. The authorities should therefore extend the time for making such deposits.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Oct. 1st, 1888

102. The *Dainik and Samachar Chandrika*, of the 1st October, thus remarks on Mr. Stephen Wheeler's article on the native press in *Macmillan's Magazine* :—

Mr. Stephen Wheeler on the native press.

According to Mr. Wheeler the writers in the native press are sedition-mongers, and he has in support of this statement selected a few lines which appeared in an issue of this paper sometime back, wherein the English were cautioned against the superior military power of Russia. According to Mr. Wheeler, those lines were calculated to spread disaffection in the country. In bringing his charge of sedition against this paper, Mr. Wheeler, must have argued somewhat in the following manner :—The *Dainik* says that the Russians have come near India and that they are superior to the English in military power, ergo, the *Dainik* must be anxious that the Indians should court Russian aid against the English. Surely Mr. Wheeler should be congratulated upon his possession of a really acute intellect. By objecting to this paper's method of warning the English Government against the superior military power of Russia, Mr. Wheeler probably wants this paper to make a display of its loyalty in the following style :—  
"Englishmen! do you sleep in peace. Russia is very weak. Her five to six millions of soldiers are no better than soldiers in a pantomime, frail as the palm leaf. Her gunpowder is as cold as ice, and one English soldier can kill a thousand Russian soldiers in one blow given with his



hand. You need not be afraid of Russia." Unfortunately, the writer of this paper is not of Mr. Wheeler's opinion on the subject of Russia's weakness. He has read history and he knows how Russia acquitted herself against tremendous odds in the Crimean War. He also knows that a fear of Russian power has made three great European powers, Germany, Austria and Italy, enter into a treaty for mutual defence. All this considered, this paper, instead of doing anything wrong, has done the very best thing by giving timely warning to the English Government against the growing power of Russia. It will thus appear that the charge of sedition-mongering, brought against the native press by men like Mr. Stephen Wheeler, is absolutely false, and that they are the deadliest enemies of the English who, like the same writer, propose to take away the liberty of that press—a press which will always do its duty fearlessly, careless of the risks which it may incur by so doing.

103. The *Grambasi*, of the 1st October, hopes that the Humane Society will reward the khalasi of the Uluberia lock, named Gopal Porel, who recently rescued a woman from drowning near the lock.

GRAMBASI,  
Oct. 1st, 1888.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

104. The *Silchar*, of the 22nd September, draws attention to the fact that the mother of the boy who was drowned at Mymensingh by his boat colliding with the Lieutenant-Governor's steamer has been ordered to be paid Rs. 118 as compensation, and asks his readers to note that the value of the poor boy's life is Rs. 118, not a rupee more or a rupee less? And this valuation of the boy's life by the Lieutenant-Governor will help officials ever after in fixing the prices of the lives of poor Indians. The writer also claims compensation on behalf of the heirs of the coolie who lost his life in collecting evergreens for the Lieutenant-Governor's reception at Mymensingh.

SILCHAR,  
Sept. 22nd, 1888.

105. The same paper says that Mr. Teunon, Assistant Commissioner of Hailakandi in Silchar, though in receipt of a large salary, must be greatly straitened for money. The other day he abused the head-constable of the local police for refusing to bring coal for his kitchen with money from his own pocket. This coal affair was noted in the diary, but Mr. Baker, the late District Superintendent of Police, Silchar, took no notice of it. But though nothing came of the note in the diary, still the conduct of Mr. Teunon must be admitted to have been in the highest degree reprehensible.

SILCHAR.

106. The same paper says that the Rajah of Manipore and his brothers have, for the following reasons, become extremely dissatisfied with the British officials in that State :—

SILCHAR.

1. A Saheb asked the permission of the Rajah to construct a house for his own residence near the mandir dedicated to Govindji, the god worshipped by the Rajah's family. Though the Saheb did not exert any pressure upon the Rajah to obtain his permission, still his request for such a permission has been, in the opinion of the people of Manipore, an insult to the Rajah.

2. Two sahebs, without having taken the permission of the Rajah, attempted to enter into the secret chamber of the palace where the throne, popularly believed to be the throne of Babhrubahana, the son of Arjun, from whom the Rajahs of Manipore claim their



descent, is kept. As this throne is an object of veneration with the people of Manipore, no profane eyes are allowed to rest upon it. The attempt of the two sahebs to enter into the throne room has therefore greatly irritated the Rajah.

3. According to the ancient law of Manipore, Brahmans are exempt from all sorts of punishment. So, by punishing some Brahmans recently, the Political Agent has greatly offended the Rajah.

4. Up to this time cows were not allowed to be slaughtered in Manipore, the people whereof do not even sell their cows to foreigners lest they be killed by their buyers in other places. But some English soldiers lately slaughtered cows in Manipore.

5. The Political Agents in Manipore have been for a long time allowed to keep a small number of British soldiers with them. Up to this time these soldiers had caused no inconvenience to the State; they rather served to invest it with some importance in the eyes of the neighbouring States. Now, however, an encampment having been formed at one extremity of Manipore for the police force in the Kaba Valley, and the passage through the State, of British troops destined for Burma, having become pretty frequent, great inconvenience is being caused to the Manipuris. It is rumoured that the Rajah is so enraged for these reasons that he is making preparations privately for a war against the English in concert with the Lushais, Kukis and some Burmese, and that ex-sepoys from the British army are enlisting themselves in the Rajah's service. The soldiers are being instructed in the use of fire-arms by Goorkhas and Hindustanis. It is for Government to ascertain whether this rumour is correct or not, and to take steps which will prevent it from being taken by surprise. The lunatic asylum lately brought away from Mayanadhar should be carried back there, and an eye should be kept upon the Lushais. The Lushais have reason to be dissatisfied with the English. It is said that some Lushais, who were chased out of their country by some powerful neighbouring tribes, sought refuge within British territory, and were not allowed to reside in or near the protected forests belonging to Government.

SILCHAR.

107. The same paper says that, on account of the smallness of the number of civil suits in the subdivisions of Chuadanga and Meherpore in the district of Nuddea, there is only one Munsif to try civil suits in the two sub-divisions. The Munsif resides alternately at Chuadanga and Meherpore, but mostly at the former place, because he receives an allowance of three rupees per day when he resides there. So his residence at Meherpore does not exceed six or seven days in the month. A correspondent of the *Apurva Punchayat* has blamed the Munsif for doing this. But the Munsif cannot be deemed guilty when it is considered that all officers of Government, from the Sub-Inspector of Schools to the Governor-General, waste large sums of money for doing no work worth the name. Money has become very dear now-a-days and let it be acquired by fair means or foul!

SILCHAR.

108. The same paper says that as five Hindus have been already appointed as Judges of the Calcutta High Court, it is desirable that a Mahomedan should be appointed to the proposed new Judgeship in that Court, even though his claim to the post be not very strong.

SILCHAR.

109. A correspondent of the same paper says that the charitable dispensary at Katigara is doing no public good. Sick people find no shelter in the dispensary, and the doctor now attached to it, Baboo Mathuranath Majumdar, is very rough in his manners. He does not know what



gentlemanliness is. He reserves the quinine in the dispensary for his own use, and tells patients that quinine is not intended for their use.

110. The *Paridarshak*, of the 24th September, says that from the commencement of British rule in Assam down to the present time, the people of that

Political agitation in Assam.

province have patiently suffered many grievous hardships and oppressions. It was never heard regarding women that they had been whipped in any part of the British empire, but some time ago a woman was whipped in Assam, and no notice was taken of the matter, and the Magistrate, who sentenced the women to whipping, has been promoted instead of being degraded. This was in the highest degree lamentable, and yet not a single Assamese raised his voice against this!

The present condition of the Habigunge and Moulavibazar subdivisions in Assam is most miserable. Both ryots and zemindars in those sub-divisions are wailing for want of money.

But the native Hakim Baboo has reported that "there was a good outturn of crops in Habigunge, and the condition of the people there is very satisfactory." The native Hakim of Moulavibazar has not hesitated to sell the very clothing of the people in his sub-division who are immersed in debt for the purpose of realising the income tax due from them. All this highhandedness the people of Assam have borne without uttering a word of protest.

It has therefore become very necessary to organise political agitation in Assam. If new life is not infused into the people of Assam by means of political agitation, they will suffer such oppressions as these all their lives. The Government is not to blame for the present state of things. What can Government do if the people do not represent their grievance to it. It is impossible for Government to check the highhandedness of its officials without being apprised of it.

Excessive rainfall in Sylhet.

111. The same paper says that excessive rain-fall in Sylhet is causing anxiety about

the outturn of the crops.

112. The same paper says that the Executive officers of Sylhet

The Executive officers of Sylhet.

have not been transferred for an unusually long time. On account of their prolonged residence in the same place, some of them have acquired zemindaris and some are indirectly carrying on mahajani or money-lending business. The people of Sylhet should make a protest against this state of things.

113. A correspondent of the same paper, subscribing himself "Truth," writes as follows in the same paper:—

The Shillong dispensary.

A few polished Calcutta Babus here are trying to get an Assistant Surgeon appointed in the place of the hospital assistant at the Shillong dispensary. But I beg to point out, through your columns, to the Chief Commissioner that this would not be at all beneficial to the people at large. This may appear strange, but yet it is a fact, and I will briefly state the reasons why I, in common with most people here, think so.

In the first place the vast majority of the natives here are either poor clerks in Government offices or Khassias who are equally poor. At present they pay with very great difficulty the Hospital Assistant's fees; you can, therefore, well imagine their hardship in paying the fees of an Assistant Surgeon, for there will virtually be no other medical man of the subordinate rank available in the station. There is no doubt a Hospital Assistant attached to the Chief Commissioner's staff, but owing to his own special duties he is not always available. Besides, he is away on tour with the Chief Commissioner for nearly half the

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year, so he is of no good to the general public. Then again the Hospital Assistants attached to the Military Hospital are so occupied with their own work, having had to look after a full regiment of sepoys, that they have virtually no leisure, even if they had the will, to attend to private calls. Under these circumstances, the poorer classes would be completely at the mercy of the Assistant Surgeon, who, being of the upper ten, would not care to take much interest in his patients, unless he is well paid for by them.

Secondly, I don't consider an Assistant Surgeon to be at all necessary for a healthy sanitarium like Shillong, where serious illness is rare and where the Civil Surgeon may always be called in in such cases.

Thirdly, I consider a diplomaed midwife for obvious reasons more necessary here than an Assistant Surgeon.

A representation, largely and influentially signed by the native community, has already been made to this effect to the Chief Commissioner, and we all hope Mr. Fitzpatrick will give it the consideration it deserves.

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114. A correspondent of the same paper is glad to find that the public conduct of Baboo Giris Chandra Das, the Sheristadar, Judge's Court, Sylhet, has been criticised. The allegations made

Baboo Giris Chandra Das, Sheristadar, Judge's Court, Sylhet.

against Giris Baboo are not groundless, and a public enquiry should be made to ascertain their truth. Giris Baboo has not ventured to contradict the charges laid at his door. He has remained unpunished by throwing dust in the eyes of both the Judge and the Government. It is hoped that the present Chief Commissioner of Assam and the Judge will make a careful enquiry into the charges, and punish Giris Baboo if he is found guilty.

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The Sheristadar, Judge's Court, Sylhet.

115. Another correspondent, calling himself "Impartial Observer," thus writes to the same paper :—

"We gladly hail the exposures that have been made regarding Giris Baboo through the medium of your valuable paper. You have really done a great service to the Sylhet public, and specially to the officers of the Judge's Court, who have long suffered from his meddlesome conduct and quarrel-picking habits. A man against whom such high and impartial authorities as Mr. L. Johnson and Mr. Meres could pass such strong remarks, is certainly not at all fit to hold any high and responsible post. We shall be very glad to see him transferred from this district, where he has become so unpopular. It is our earnest desire that your honest attempt may meet with every success."

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,  
*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 6th October 1888.*